



# The Alabama Gazette

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ALABAMA'S FREE Press

VOL. 14. ISSUE 7

APRIL 2014

alabamagazette@gmail.com

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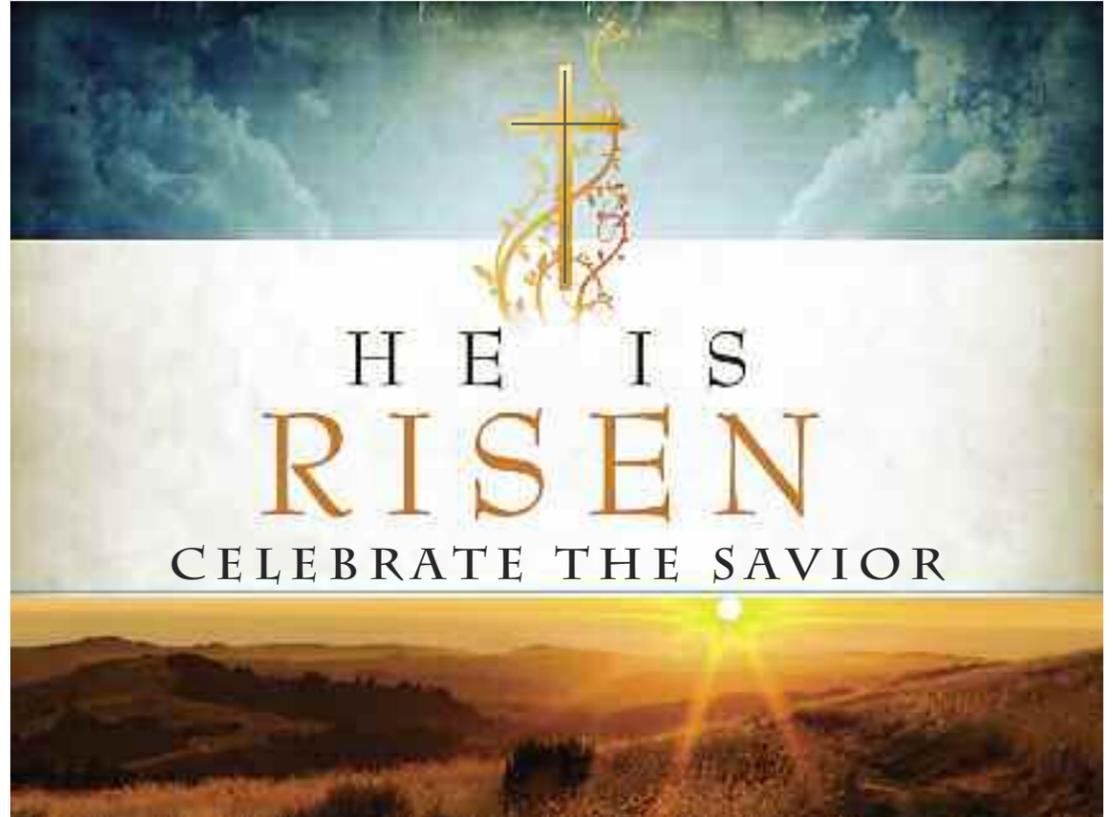
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Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC  
Volume 14-Issue 7 Copyright 2014  
The Alabama Gazette, 24 pages.



## The Cross and History

By DR. RICK MARSHALL

One of the most compelling quotes I have ever read about this season of the year is this, "There was a cross in the heart of God before there was one planted on a green hill outside Jerusalem."

As we come to the Easter season with all of its beauty, joy and celebration, it is incumbent upon us to remember why there was a resurrection. A tomb was emptied which was once occupied by the most unlikely figure in all of history. Christianity provides no quick leap from believing in God to celebrating the power of God to raise His Son. **The cross represents how God bridged the great chasm created by sin which separated us from Him.** If you have ever walked to the precipice of the Grand Canyon and viewed the vast expanse to the other side, you can appreciate what it was like for us to be so far from God, no leap from our side would get us to the other side. It was only when He reached out to us which brought us together. That bridge was His Son who sacrificed His life as an atonement, a payment, for our sin.

We are reminded "there can be no repetition of Calvary, only echoes," as so eloquently spoken by Frank Crumpler in his marvelous book on the cross. The cross of Christ is both a historical event as well as an infinitely eternal event. It is both a point in time and that which has no time. When Jesus came into the world eternity entered time as we know and understand it.

Please see "The Cross and History" continued on page 16

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**WATCH OUT FOR CON ARTISTS  
AND SCAMMERS!!**



**Chief Derrick  
Cunningham**

Spring is upon us and so are the con artists. Recently we have received many calls about a few different types of cons. One set of these criminals call your house and will tell you several things to try and get you to send them money. They often identify themselves as a Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff or an investigator. There are many different versions but the main con is they tell you that you have a warrant for your arrest and you need to send them money before you are arrested. They know many facts about you and they will actually use a law enforcement officer's name. Do not let this impress you. Almost anything can be learned about a person on the internet. They will even have their phone number spoofed to indicate they are with a certain law enforcement agency on your caller I.D. They then want you to electronically send the money to them through one of several means. Do not fall for this scam. Any and all fines are paid through the court clerk's office, not by a money card or western union. If you have a call of this nature, call your local law enforcement agency and report it. Last month I received two calls from Montgomery County, Maryland where the suspect was using my name and told those victims that they owed past income tax money and they would be arrested if they didn't send them the money. All a person has to do is think about that scam and they should know that income tax is processed by the I.R.S. and not a Sheriff. If you get such a call, do not panic. Hang up or if you just want to deal with them, tell them that they will just have to come and arrest you, but remember they make a good living doing this and may fool you into sending money. No matter what, notify the appropriate agency.

Another scam usually comes over the internet. An email is sent, usually from somewhere in Africa, from someone who wants you to think that he is a person of importance. Many different titles are used such as a Prince, or even a bank manager. There are millions of dollars just waiting to be shared if you contact them and eventually they will get you to send hundreds or thousands of dollars in order for you to get your share. Of course there is no money to be had and the only money in their pockets is your money. These people have been doing this for years and very seldom are they caught.

Those of you who have asphalt driveways or parking lots, watch out for the paving scam artists. Their story usually is that they have left over asphalt from another job and they will pave your driveway for an extremely low price. Many times they will just spray your driveway with a black liquid to make you think you have gotten a deal. If they do use asphalt, they do a sub-standard job and they will then attempt to charge you twice or three times the quoted price. These people sometimes threaten the victim with lawsuits or even violence. If someone comes to your door, call us immediately and get the best description of their vehicles. The tags on their vehicles are usually from out of state which is why they are often known as paving scam gypsies. One other thing they will try on people who live in the country is a painting scam. If a barn or out building needs painting, they will give a really low price to paint the building. It looks good until the first rain which just washes off the white wash that they used.

Here is one that is more personal. It is usually pulled on older citizens who are often times easier to scam. You may be approached at a shopping area or even outside a bank. They are usually two people who act like they have just found thousands of dollars. They might try many stories but the bottom line is that they are willing to share this money with you if you are willing to go to the bank and put up some good faith money. Now the victim is hooked after the found money is shown to them and the victim is not thinking clearly because they see so much money that they can share. Of course when the victim has paid their money and looks at their share, it is nothing but a few dollars surrounding cut up paper.

There are many more scams going around but they all share something in common. Greed! Getting something for nothing or next to nothing. It is really a terrible shame when an older person loses his or her life savings to one of these low life people. These people don't care who they hurt or ruin financially. They know that the chances of getting caught is very low and if they do get caught, the penalty is relatively light. Don't be a victim. Stop and catch your breath and think about these offers. Remember, nothing is free. Think about the old saying, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true.



[www.MontgomerySheriff.com](http://www.MontgomerySheriff.com)  
or call 832-1646  
For applications

The Montgomery County Sheriff's office is now accepting applications for our Citizens Academy. The Citizens Academy was established in 1997 to educate the citizens of Montgomery County on how the Sheriff's Office operates and to promote public safety among our community members. Classes are designed to be interesting as well as informative. Citizens are given an opportunity to ride with a Deputy on patrol, tour the County Jail, volunteer at events that are sponsored by the

Sheriff's Office as well as train on the Firearms Training Simulator.

The Citizens Academy is a FREE 6 week course that meets on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:00 P.M. at our office, located at 115 S. Perry Street. All material will be discussed during the meetings and neither homework or physical activity is required. To join the Citizens Academy you must be a resident of Montgomery County, be at least 21 years old, pass a criminal background check and attend weekly meetings. The next class is starting this spring. Applications can be downloaded at our website at [www.MontgomerySheriff.com](http://www.MontgomerySheriff.com) or you can call 832-1646, or come by our office. An application can also be requested by mailing a request to:

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office; Attn: Citizen Academy  
Registration, 115 S. Perry St., Montgomery, Alabama 36104.

It is time again for our  
**Deputy Dave Family and Friends Day.**

*Saturday, May 3, 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.  
at the Dunbar/Ramer Elementary School in Ramer.*



There will be food, drinks, games, prizes and display booths for our kids' enjoyment. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has put on this fun day for about ten years now and we have had thousands of kids attend. Bring you kids to Ramer on May 3rd and let them enjoy the fun.

This is just one of our many community events hosted by the Sheriff's office every year. Chief Cunningham came up with the idea of our fishing rodeos for kids and for seniors and each year both events seems to grow. What better way is there to spend time with your kids or elderly relatives than to take them fishing and to meet our deputies and correctional officers.

There are many other things that your Sheriff's office does for you. To get a better idea of what we offer, go to our website at [www.montgomerysheriff.com](http://www.montgomerysheriff.com). You will be surprised at what we do for you.

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# Robservations...by Robert Tate

The views of this editorial may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.

## BITS AND PIECES

After my short hiatus (1 month) from Robservations, a lot has happened. We've had a Russian invasion, a missing Boeing 777, a pretty boring Olympics, a Jay Leno departure, idiotic lawmakers saying some pretty idiotic stuff and of course the return of the Walking Dead. As is sometimes customary with my Robservations, instead of writing about just one issue, I like to cover several topics in one column. So here is Bits and Pieces.

### Malaysian Flight 370

You know, I don't even know where to begin with this thing. As an airline pilot, I get a lot of questions about this and to be honest, I really do not



mind fielding these questions and although I can guess with the "best of them," I admittedly have absolutely no idea what happened. I can offer answers about aircraft systems, pilot procedures and what I think may have happened, but that is about it. I can tell you what I do know 100% and am prepared to go on the record right now with what I know to be true. A Boeing 777 took off from the airport in Kuala Lumpur flying to Beijing. It didn't make it. There you go.

### Texas Representative Sheila Jackson Lee:

Wh - What?



I know for a fact that I am not always the sharpest tool in the shed, but what the?? Democrat Texas Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee is continuing her march into the world of classic buffoonery. Remember, back in 2003 when she complained that hurricane

names were too "lily white" and said that "All racial groups should be represented." She suggested Hurricanes "Keisha, Jamal and Deshawn" <http://www.frontpagemag.com/2011/dgreenfield/sheila-jackson-lee-racist-and-moron/>.

I guess somehow giving a hurricane an ethnic name should make all of us feel better about ourselves. And who can forget the unforgettable quote asking about whether the Mars Rover would be able to show us, "the flag the astronauts planted there before?" You can't make this stuff up. Yes sports fans, Ms. Lee either thought we walked on Mars or the Mars Rover landed on the moon.

Well I guess a week ago or so, she actually said, "... how well it is that we have lasted some 400 years operating under a Constitution that clearly defines what is constitutional and what is not. . ." Really, after the "400 years" statement my head melted. Who really cares what she said before or after that? Just for grins, the Constitution was ratified almost 225 years ago. I guess she was only 175 years off. Considering the universe is an estimated 13.8 billion years old, she really wasn't that far off. The question sadly becomes, "Where do we find such leaders?"

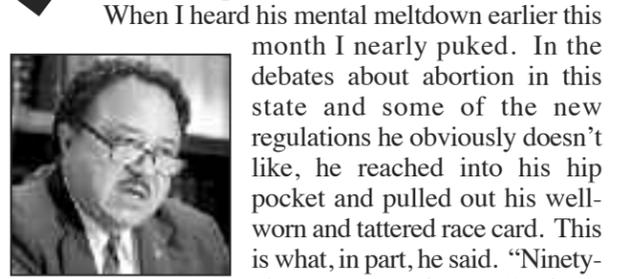
### Do you remember Georgia Democrat Representative Hank Johnson's gaff back in 2010

...when in a discussion with Admiral Robert Willard, head of the U.S. Pacific fleet about the planned military build-up on the island of Guam? Pulling out his most intellectual voice he actually said, "My fear is that the whole island will become so overly populated that it will tip over and capsize."



[www.cbsnews.com/news/hank-johnson-worries-guam-could-capsize-after-marine-buildup/](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/hank-johnson-worries-guam-could-capsize-after-marine-buildup/). So apparently Mr. Johnson believes islands simply float around the world and are prone to capsizing if we aren't careful. That is pretty sad. In his defense, maybe he missed that day in school.

### And what is up with our own Alvin Holmes?



When I heard his mental meltdown earlier this month I nearly puked. In the debates about abortion in this state and some of the new regulations he obviously doesn't like, he reached into his hip pocket and pulled out his well-worn and tattered race card. This is what, in part, he said. "Ninety-nine percent of the all of the white people in here are going to raise their hand that they are against abortion. On the other hand, 99 percent of the whites who are sitting in here now, if their daughter got pregnant by a black man, they are going to make their daughter have an abortion. You know, the truth sometimes hurts. "All this stuff about abortion and this and that -- that's just a con game. That's for whites, it ain't for blacks."

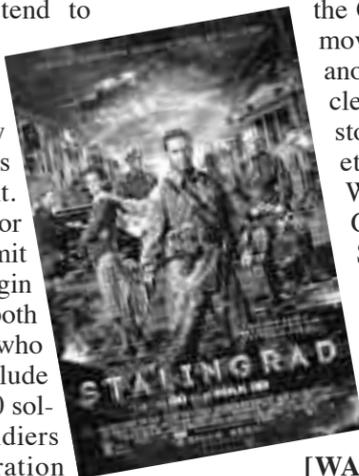
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/05/alabama-abortion\\_n\\_4905640.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/05/alabama-abortion_n_4905640.html).

Wow, where do you go from there? I guess he and I are living on different planets but my reality is certainly not his reality. For sure, many white people do get disgusted and upset when their daughter dates, let alone gets pregnant by a black guy. But here is a news flash for Mr. Holmes. The hatred and vitriol also comes from black families in the same situation. My wife and I almost adopted a little biracial girl about 15 years ago. We were told that both families were pretty much mean as heck to this beautiful little girl and wanted nothing to do with her. As if she had anything to do with her circumstance. I hate to be the one to bring bad news but it goes both ways. Besides, as I stroll through airport after airport in the course of my job, the sheer number of white families I see with black children of every age only grows every day. And sorry Mr. Holmes, it does bring a smile to my face. This is 2014 and not 1914 nor even 1964. Drop the racist race baiting and do us all a favor.

I guess my point to all this is how in the heck do we, as a country, continue to elect people who are clearly not up to the job? It is both fascinating and depressing.

### STALINGRAD

Okay, I am not a movie critic or at least I generally do not write about the movies I see. I do, however, have to write about Stalingrad. In 1942-43, the Germans and Russians fought one of the bloodiest battles in human history. At the end of the five month battle, just short of 2,000,000 men were killed, wounded or missing. I think as Americans, we tend to discount the war on the Russian Front and ignore the Russian contribution to the war effort. Most of us do not realize that fully 80% of all German casualties came at the hands of the Russians. For example, I carry a fold out sheet of paper when I fly that is covered with tiny stars - 88,000 to be exact. I will sometimes show it to the guy I am flying with and ask what the stars represent. Most have no idea nor would I expect them to. Are you ready for the answer? It is the number of combat aircraft the Russians admit to losing in WWII. Yup, I said it right. 88,000! Can you even begin to imagine? If one were to take just the deaths of soldiers from both sides (Germany to include Romania, Hungary, Italy and Russians who fought with Germany and on the other side the Russians to include Poland, Romania and Bulgaria) we get approximately 15,829,000 soldiers killed. Divide that by 1397 days and we get some 11,330 soldiers killed every day from 22 June 1941 to 7 May 1945 (Operation Barbarossa to the German surrender). Let's not even talk about the millions of civilians killed there. Yeah, the conflict on the Russian Front was without a doubt the war of the century.



Stalingrad, a Russian made movie, was by far one of the best war movies I have ever seen. Imagine, Russians speaking Russian and Germans speaking German and no English speaking Germans with British accents. Sadly, this movie received absolutely no advertising and even the movie theater entrance didn't have a Stalingrad poster showing the movie. But I just happened to look online one day because my brother mentioned the movie was playing up in New Jersey. I am glad I saw it - twice, actually.

The movie starts off, of all places, in Japan following the 2011 Tsunami that destroyed much of the country. There, Russian rescuers work to pull five young Germans from a fallen building. As one of the German girls starts to panic and cry, the lead Russian calms her by telling her about his "five fathers." At first I had to ask myself if I was in the right theater but this was a brilliant lead into

the telling of the Stalingrad story. From there, it is fasten your seatbelts and enjoy the ride.

Filmed in perhaps the best and not-over-the-top 3-D I've seen, this movie was brutal, violent and bloody yet masterful in its telling and building of characters. Very few movies successfully capture the hatred between the Germans and Russians which I am sure still exists today. In this movie, there is no doubt about the way the combatants felt about one another. No mercy asked, no quarter given. In my opinion, this movie clearly rivals and in many ways surpasses Saving Private Ryan in its storytelling and unforgiving ferocity. Clearly there is a lot of Russian ethnocentricity and fanfare but still the combat scenes are riveting. Whether it is the Russian soldiers engulfed in flames charging a German trench or the intense hand to hand fighting, you will like Stalingrad if you enjoy war movies. If, however, you don't enjoy onscreen carnage, Frozen is likely playing in another theater.

The movie unfortunately only stayed here two weeks and has moved on but luckily is for sale on Amazon. Be sure to buy the 2013 movie although the 1993 German produced movie of the same name is also good. This Russian version, however, is truly exceptional.

[WARNING: GRATUITOUS, ANTI-POLITICAL CORRECTNESS DIATRIBE] One current take-away from this movie is realizing the way in which all the combatants fought WWII. If our government allowed our fighting men and women to fight to win, regardless of any worthless politically correct notions, we would have been out of Afghanistan years ago. As a student of military history, Sun Tzu 101 tells us that we are to **fight to win, not fight to fight**. When you see the Germans and Russians fighting and one guy takes a shovel and cleaves another guy's head in half, it is beautiful that no lawyers come streaming out of the buildings like cockroaches counting the number of bullet holes in the bad guy or screaming, "Hey, you can't do that! That's not nice. I'm going to send you to jail." (Sadly this has happened.)

Political correctness, I am not talking about obeying Laws of Armed Conflict (LOAC), has no place in combat and the savage, yet simple beauty of this reality sets Stalingrad above most other similar movies and should be mandatory viewing for all of our lawmakers who have no idea of how to properly prosecute war. Oooops, I digress. Let me get off my soapbox. Cheers.



CONGRESSMAN  
**MIKE ROGERS**  
Representing the 3rd District of Alabama

## ROGERS MEETS WITH VETERANS IN TALLADEGA

### RECEIVES UPDATE FROM CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON PATIENT ADVOCATE

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Congressman Mike Rogers met today with his Third District Veterans Advisory Committee in Talladega. This volunteer panel, made up of Veterans from across the Third District, meets regularly with Rogers and helps advise him on issues important to Veterans and their families.

During the meeting, Rogers and the advisory committee listened to a presentation and update from the Congressional Liaison Patient Advocate, Brett Robbins from VAMC in Birmingham. Rogers said he also would continue to do all he could to help reduce the ongoing backlog of cases at the Veterans Administration. Recently Rogers voted to pass H.R. 2189, which would establish a commission or task force charged with examining the root causes of the

Department of Veterans Affairs disability claims backlog and providing solutions for ending it by 2015.

“Hopefully our Veterans believe these meetings are an effective way for them to keep up to date on pressing issues and to talk directly with me about their concerns. They certainly provide me a great, firsthand opportunity to hear specific issues that may be on folks’ minds,” Rogers said.

“Congressman Rogers and his staff are always available to answer questions from the Veterans community. These meetings give us the opportunity to hear from experts and have our concerns addressed,” said Jim Heigl of Sylacauga. Mr. Heigl is a charter member of Chapter 945 of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Rogers thanked the Veterans able to attend the meeting. “I appreciate these proud Veterans taking time out of their busy schedules to be a part of this group and to continue to help advise me on issues and concerns important to our Veterans across East Alabama. We thank them all for their service to our great Nation.”

The Veterans Advisory Committee meets throughout the year across East Alabama and is made up of Veterans from the 13 counties in the Third District.

Rogers serves as Chairman of the House Armed Services Strategic Forces subcommittee and is a senior member of the House Agriculture and House Armed Services Committees.

## COMBATING EXECUTIVE OVERREACH



When Alabamians have trouble with the federal government, my job is to step in and try to help. That's exactly what happened when a new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation imposed costly inspection and compliance requirements on Alabama farmers.

For years, EPA regulations for fuel storage on farms authorized under the Clean Water Act of 1972 applied only to very large fuel tanks, or those with a history of spills. Now, the EPA is applying the regulations to smaller tanks and farming operations with no history of accidents.

Agriculture is the top industry in Alabama, employing more than 580,000 of our citizens. Like in many industries, aggressive agriculture regulations from Washington increase costs, stifle opportunities, and make life difficult for farmers.

Thomas Adams from Henry County was one such farmer who was impacted. The new EPA rules would force him to spend thousands of dollars for special equipment and services to certify that his fuel tanks were compliant. Thomas told his story in an interview with WTVY News, which you can watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/RepRoby>

Americans are tired of the endless stream of heavy-handed regulations coming out of Washington. I worked with my colleague Representative Rick Crawford of Arkansas on the FUELS Act, which seeks to rein in EPA farm regulations to truly reflect risk. Specifically, the FUELS Act would exempt fuel tanks under 10,000 gallons from the regulation and allow larger tanks without a history of accidents to self-certify.

I am pleased to report that the House passed the FUELS Act on March 11 in a unanimous voice vote. I was proud to work on behalf of Thomas Adams and all Alabama farmers to find a solution to this problem and help provide some much-needed relief. Now, we are urging the Senate to pass this bipartisan legislation without delay.

This is just one example of the harmful impact overreaching federal regulations can have on small businesses, farms, and individuals. If you know of an overly burdensome regulation that is hurting you or your business, please write to me or visit [www.Roby.House.gov](http://www.Roby.House.gov) to let me know.

### Combating Executive Overreach

One of the most frequent questions I am asked by constituents is what Congress is doing to address the pattern of executive overreaches and disregard for the law by President Obama and his administration. Good, God-fearing Americans who work hard, pay their taxes, and obey the law are understandably frustrated by a president who acts as if he is above the law.

I believe in our Constitution, and I believe it's worth fighting for. That's why I was proud to support two bills passed this week by the House designed to rein in the Obama Administration and open the door to legal action to challenge particularly egregious abuses of power.

Watch my House floor speech in support of the ENFORCE the Law Act online here: <https://www.youtube.com/RepRoby>

While the separation of powers may not always be convenient for President Obama's political goals, they are necessary to ensure government still derives its authority from the people - not the other way around.

### Notes from the Road

I travelled throughout Alabama's Second Congressional District to listen first hand to the concerns of my constituents, and there were plenty of timely issues to discuss.

**SAMSON** - Tuesday morning I visited Samson High School in Geneva County. I met the teachers and administrators, and had the treat of visiting with students from the senior government class to discuss civic leadership. I was impressed by the informed questions from students on current events, including the situation in Ukraine.

Every American should be concerned about Russia's actions and what it means internationally. Vladimir Putin is trying to bully an entire region of the world, and we have to be willing to stand up to him. I support President Obama's decision to levy sanctions on Russian leaders, but I'm not sure we have gone far enough. The United States must rally our NATO allies and bring our combined pressure to bear. No matter what, we have to be willing to back up our rhetoric with action, and it's time for President Obama to show he can do that.

**DOTHAN** - On Wednesday, I traveled to Dothan to meet with Mayor Mike Schmitz and officials from the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce about some economic development projects in the area. Chamber President Matt Parker and his team do an outstanding job for Dothan, and I appreciate them keeping me informed about various prospects in the area and ways that I can be of help.

One common impediment to economic

development is aggressive regulation from Washington. Whether it is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), or other agencies, local businesses are seeing a more aggressive and even activist tilt from federal agencies when it comes to implementing and enforcing regulations. Such actions inhibit existing businesses from growing and prevent new companies from locating in our area. Among my top priorities in Congress is to seek out overreach from executive agencies and rein it in.

**ENTERPRISE** - From Dothan we headed up Highway 84 to Enterprise for a meeting with the Republican Women of Coffee County. We had a great discussion about a number of important issues, including ongoing problems with the healthcare law. I've heard from many constituents who have had their health plans cancelled, premiums increase, or choice of doctor restricted - all after President Obama repeatedly promised that none of that would happen. It's not fair, and people are understandably angry about it. ObamaCare can't be fixed through small tweaks or executive orders.

But, it's not enough just to say we want to repeal ObamaCare. We have to come behind it with a plan that makes sense. A group of smart lawmakers, including several doctors, are working on this right now. I believe it will be our job to explain our conservative healthcare alternative to the American people.

**FORT RUCKER** - On Thursday, I was honored to be on post at Fort Rucker for the Change of

Command Ceremony. General Kevin Mangum was recently promoted and reassigned after serving two years as post commander. The new commanding general at Fort Rucker is Brigadier General Michael Lundy. I can't say enough about General Mangum and the leadership he has shown at Fort Rucker during an especially difficult time. His impressive promotion speaks for itself. It was a pleasure to meet General Lundy, and I am confident he will serve with distinction as the new post commander.

Fort Rucker is a special post with a uniquely valuable mission for the U.S. Army, and I will continue to do all I can to make sure our Armed Forces have the resources they need to protect this country. We cannot allow more defense budget cuts to continue to hollow out our military forces. That's why I came out strongly against a Senate plan to strip the military of even more funding and send it overseas to prop up the International Monetary Fund.

Our military has already been cut to the bone. The additional cuts proposed by Senate Democrats would further inhibit our readiness and send the wrong message internationally. Now is a time for the United States to project strength in the world, not further erode our military capabilities.

It is an honor to represent you in Congress. Please do not hesitate to contact my office to ask a question, relay a concern, or seek assistance with a federal agency. My staff and I work for you.

*Martha Roby represents Alabama's 2nd Congressional District. She is currently serving her second term.*



Marcia Chambliss



## LIGHTS OUT?

Living in Alabama, we are accustomed to the severe weather that can impact our state and are not surprised by the accompanying loss of electrical power. But imagine for a moment that a temporary power outage continued for weeks, months, or even a year or longer, and that outage affected not only the state of Alabama, but also the vast majority of America.

End-of-the-world Hollywood thrillers have always captured the imaginations of movie fans, but the dangers surrounding an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack have also been discussed in the Pentagon and halls of Congress for some time, and many are now advocating a more urgent approach to what they describe as a serious matter of national security.

Nuclear bombs have long been feared as our enemies' means of mass murder, the destruction of our major cities, and the lasting effect of the radioactive fallout. The EMP Commission was first established in 2001, re-authorized in 2006, and has released two separate recommendations to Congress (2004 and 2008) regarding necessary steps to reduce our vulnerability to a similar type of attack. According to the reports, while the detonation of a high-altitude nuclear device above the United States would not immediately render visible damage to our metropolitan areas, it is equally devastating to our country and its citizens given the impact it would have on our national power grid.

But the threat of an EMP catastrophe does not rest solely in the hands of our enemies; geomagnetic storms, or solar activity, can also trigger such an event. In the very simplest of explanations, the sudden burst and resultant wave of energy traveling hundreds of miles, released by either a nuclear device or geomagnetic storm, has the potential of essentially frying any and all unprotected electronic devices, including our critical infrastructure components on which we so heavily depend.

I paid scant attention to this serious issue until I read **One Second After**, a work of fiction written in 2008 by author William Forstchen. It may be a fictitious account of the aftermath of an EMP attack, but it led me to explore and research the very real threat of an EMP event, as well as question just why we are still so vulnerable after two commission reports given to those we elect to protect our nation and its citizens.

Our military has recognized the threat of EMP and, according to Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ), who serves on the House Armed Services Committee, the

Department of Defense has responded by hardening and shielding military defense systems, but our civilian infrastructure remains extremely vulnerable. Although numerous pieces of legislation have been introduced in Congress to address the infrastructure vulnerability, only a few have made it out of the House of Representatives, merely to languish in the Senate. The most recent, HR2417, the SHIELD Act, was introduced by Rep. Franks last year and is now pending in the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power.

According to an abstract by The Heritage Foundation\*, numerous experts, scientists, and government commissions concur that we have a problem. The EMP Commission has released two reports and provided testimony outlining the serious problems and recommendations. Yet we are still waiting on legislation to get out of committee to address the serious vulnerabilities. Why?

Could it be the intense lobbying interests of the energy companies? At the recent panel discussion conducted during the Uninvited II conference in Washington, D.C., Jeanine Pirro was critical of both political parties in their reluctance to advance legislation. The lack of action isn't due to the absence of necessary technology. No, as indicated by Pirro, it may have more to do with the pressure exerted by campaign contributions from the energy companies who would be responsible for the costs of protecting the grid.

One would hope that the likely loss of American lives as the result of the long-term collapse of critical infrastructure, not to mention the incredible recovery costs associated with rebuilding our power grid as a result of a catastrophic EMP event would outweigh the expense required to protect our infrastructure. But while Congress spends our tax dollars with reckless abandon – you simply must download Sen. Tom Coburn's Wastebook 2013 - our D.C. culture continues "kicking the can" down the proverbial road, yet again delaying tough decisions on the serious issues which threaten our existence as a sovereign nation.

\* James Jay Carafano, Ph.D., Baker Spring, and Richard Weitz, Ph.D. "Before the Lights Go Out: A Survey of EMP Preparedness Reveals Significant Shortfalls." The Heritage Foundation, Backgrounder #2596.

Marcia Chambliss is the Alabama State Coordinator of Smart Girl Politics, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the education and training of activists and candidates, and Smart Girl Politics Action, <http://sgpaction.com/>, a 501(c)(4) which focuses on conservative issues. She can be reached at [Marcia@sgpaction.com](mailto:Marcia@sgpaction.com). Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics Action.

## ROBY COMMENTS ON LATEST OBAMACARE DELAY

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) today responded to reports that the Obama administration intends to push back the ObamaCare open enrollment deadline despite repeatedly telling Members of Congress and the public that the deadline was "firm" and they did not have the statutory authority to change it.

*"Two weeks ago, I sat in an appropriations hearing when Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said point blank that the deadline was firm and would not be changed," Rep. Roby said. "If President Obama's chief healthcare administrator isn't going to tell the truth to Congress, he shouldn't send her to testify.*

*"We all want as many Americans as possible to have affordable health insurance, but the deadline is there for a reason. Removing it brings more uncertainty into the marketplace and makes it difficult for providers to distill metrics and set future rates.*

*"This delay serves to hide the reality that ObamaCare is fundamentally flawed and needs to be replaced with a patient-centered system that isn't run by the government."*

According to the **Washington Post**, the new rule will allow people to qualify for an extension simply "by checking a blue box on **HealthCare.gov** to indicate that they tried to enroll before the deadline. This method will rely on an honor system; the government will not try to determine whether the person is telling the truth."

Video of the exchange from the March 13 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee hearing can be found here. A transcript of the specific exchange with Representative Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN) can be found below.

**Mr. Fleischmann:** *And I want a yes-or-no answer: Will you or will you not delay the individual enrollment deadline on any other aspect of Obamacare?*

**Secretary Sebelius:** *The enrollment deadline will not be delayed, as I said yesterday...But the enrollment deadline, which was set out to end March 31st, will end March 31st.*

**Mr. Fleischmann:** *Okay. So then we agree that there is no statutory authority to extend these deadlines and that they will not be extended.*

**Secretary Sebelius:** *The enrollment deadline will be March 31st.*

Rep. Roby is a member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.




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# Woods & Waters with Zack

**Zack  
Azar**

## MIXED BAG OF OUTDOORSMEN FOR APRIL

April presents a mixed bag to outdoorsman across central Alabama. Turkey season continues all month, and with warmer temperatures, the fishing is getting better. This month will see turkey hunting transition from really active gobblers during the first half of the month to a slowdown towards the last half. As hens go to nesting, the gobblers will slow down a bit and hunters will have to modify their tactics to be successful. For you fishermen, April finds crappie and bass moving into shallow water to spawn, and this makes them much easier to locate and catch.

Late season turkey hunts are notorious for slow action, so don't expect to go out and call like you did in March. As the season wears on, the hens shy away from toms, becoming more and more elusive as they disperse to their individual nesting sites. Meanwhile, the hot-blooded gobblers are searching tirelessly for another mating opportunity. Near the conclusion of the spring season, fewer and fewer hens feel the need to be bred. This means that late-season toms focus all their efforts on trying to find that one hen that might possibly be interested. It's going to take an adjustment in attitude and approach. Also, by now there are few places left where turkeys haven't been pressured by hunters. As a result, surviving toms are call-shy. With mating drawing to a close, both hens and gobblers are less vocal and typically less excited for action. Rather than running and gunning for toms, bring more patience to the woods.

At this time of the year, you have to be willing to sit in one place and let the birds work to you. First, you should know from scouting where the turkeys are most likely to hang out. Then, you can sit with confidence knowing that the chance of a gobbler being nearby is pretty high. Second, make sure that you are comfortable. Bring a foldout turkey seat topped with an extra cushion. These seats allow you to sit low, but off of the damp ground. Find a large tree to sit against and use brush or a fold out fence blind to conceal the movement of working a call. Call sparingly, every 10 minutes or so, and remember that it is better to under-call than over-call. Plan to sit tight for an hour or two. Again, birds are call-shy and slow to work late in the season. Your patience will often reward you with a shot at a gobbler.

Roosting is also a great tactic for late-season, heavily pressured birds. When the gobblers are becoming increasingly unresponsive, that's when I want to find them the evening before. That way I can crowd them when I set up the next morning. I want to make it as easy as possible for a gobbler to fly down and have to walk just a short distance to check me out. From previous encounters with turkeys, you should have a general idea of where a tom is roosting. Hopefully, you will hear the turkey fly up for the night, and you won't have to utter any sounds to cause the gobbler to sound off. But if you're not fortunate enough to hear a gobbler flap his way to a roost tree, you need to forget the hen chatter that you would normally make early in the season and instead use a barred owl, crow, or hawk call to cause a tom to shock gobbler. As a last resort, you can gobble a few times in order to elicit a response. Once you successfully roost a gobbler, wait for full darkness before slipping out of the area.

The next morning, move in really close and set up well before sunrise in the pitch dark. If a gobbler does hear you walking to your setup, you want him to think that it's

just the normal movement of animals in the night. The trees are leafed out by now, so don't worry. If you move quietly, you should be able to get within 50, maybe even 40 yards from the tom's tree without him seeing you. Get in position so you won't have to move until it's time to pull the trigger and make some soft tree yelps. Then transition

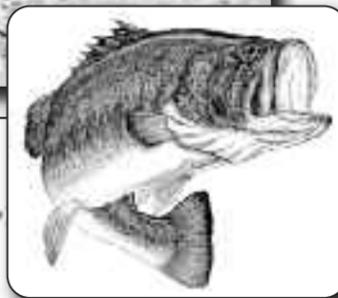
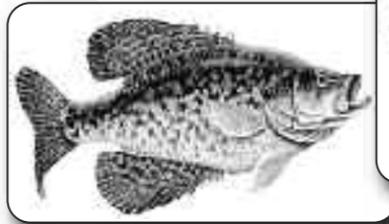
to a few tantalizing yelps and the odd cluck or two. Perhaps the next best step in the teasing process is just to go silent, as you will be so close to the roosted bird that it may cause a longbeard to become suspicious if no visible clues exist to prove that a hen is in the vicinity.

April sees daytime temperatures begin to warm into the mid 70-degree range, and as the water begins to warm, crappie will migrate into the shallows. Broad, shallow flats that offer a wide area across which the sun can penetrate are some of the first areas to warm up on any lake or pond. It helps to have a good temperature gauge because a temperature difference of only 2 or 3 degrees from one area to the next can have an amazingly large impact on the activity of the fish. It's a fact that crappie feed more actively in warmer water so temperature is a key ingredient in catching these fish. Try to locate trees that have fallen into the water, stumps or standing timber. Anyone who has spent time chasing these fish know that they are structure oriented fish.

Small minnows are deadly on spring crappie, as are many artificial lures. A 1/16-ounce jig in either a hair or rubber body model is probably the most popular. They will also readily strike an in-line spinner, a Road Runner or a beetle spin. If the bite is slow, don't hesitate to experiment with different lures and colors until you find what they want.

Bass are also moving shallow this time of the year in preparation for spawning. During the pre spawn as well as the post spawn, I have had a great deal of success using soft jerk baits, hard jerk baits, spinnerbaits and lizards. I look for gravel bottoms in 4 to 8 feet of water and water temperature in the mid to upper 60's. If stumps or downed trees are present, that's even better. Don't overlook piers and docks this time of the year. They can be bass magnets, as the fish move into more shallow water.

Next month, we will explore some post spawn bass fishing tactics and look at ways to help you catch more bluegill and shellcracker. They will be bedding soon, so be sure to read next month's column. And remember, if you have the opportunity, introduce a young person to fishing this spring.



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**Sports Editor,  
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# WHO'S GONN'A FILL THEIR SHOES?

With spring training winding up for most college football teams, the players will be elated, the coaches will be either happy or deeply concerned and the fans will be delirious after watching the spring games. That event usually indicates that the grueling spring football is over. It is never over for the coaches. They must spend the next week grading the spring game and the entire spring practices. They want to come out of spring with a good idea of who the number ones are, but just as important is who the number

two's are. If they don't have a handle on this they feel that much of spring was not a successful process.

Every year seniors graduate. Most fans are in a dither as to how will they possibly find a replacement for those stars that are irreplaceable. We go through this every year just as sure as spring will come and the earth turns green again. There is always someone who has been waiting in the wings to take the mantle left by a superstar. That's what recruiting is for. Nevertheless the worrisome cry of the fans of springs is...

## ...“WHO'S GONN'A FILL THEIR SHOES”

Statistics mean little! Generally they are the prize of losers. Statistics don't win ball games. Players and coaches do. Alabama and Auburn had no significant statistics to brag about yet Auburn came within seconds of winning the national championship and Alabama came within one second of going to their third straight championship game. There are schools all over the country that are setting records galore but at the end of the day they wind up with a 5-6 record. Troy for instance had a quarterback named **Corey Robinson** who set every passing record at Troy, even breaking most of the records set by my friend **Sim Byrd**, who's team won the NAIA National Championship in 1966. What has Troy's record been in the last few years? 5-6, 4-7, 5-6.

So looking at the dearly departed seniors, we will not be very concerned with the records they had.

Alabama has the biggest challenge in that they must replace three year starter **A. J. McCarron** at quarterback. Well, who's gonn'a fill his shoes. The answer is nobody. There is a platoon of quarterbacks working diligently to become a starter at Alabama, led by McCarron's back-up for the last two years, senior Blake Sims. Sims has the ability to be a starter at most schools, but **Coach Nick Saban** is not looking for mobility. He is looking for a quarterback that can adequately throw the football, read defenses perfectly, have the leadership qualities to engineer the train flawlessly and keep from losing the game, so that the defense can win it. Does this sound familiar? He also will require of this quarterback one of the most difficult assignments, check off to the right play every time. Now, this is a hard row to hoe for any quarterback. No college or pro quarterback has ever achieved these assignments perfectly. But, as one of the greatest coaches of all time **Vince Lombardi** said to his players in one of his first meetings with a losing team in Green Bay, *“We will strive for perfection and in doing so we shall reach excellence”*. that they did with a McCarron-like quarterback from Alabama, Montgomery, and Lanier H. S., **Bart Starr**.

In this writers opinion, Alabama's only serious problem is replacing **A. J. McCarron's** brain. He was an average passer (check his NFL rating...he will probably go in the third or fourth round and be a career back-up...that's not my opinion...that's what the pro's think...I think that if he gets with the right coach as Bart Starr did, he will be a starter). So, replacing his talent will not be difficult. The platoon of QB's mentioned above all have their strengths and their weakness. It is my opinion that **Blake Sims** can not do the things Coach Saban wants him to do. So, scratch Sims as the starter. However in this writers opinion, Saban would lose the team if he did not make Blake Sims a big part of the offense. He can install an offensive package that takes advantage of Sim's strengths. And, by doing so, Sims can be designated as a part-time starter. He can play five minutes or he can play twenty minutes, but he must play. Waiting eagerly are sophomores **Alex Morris**, **Parker McLeod**, **Cooper Bateman** and freshman **David Cornwell**. Promising QB **Luke Del Rio** transferred to Oregon State the day **Coach Lane Kiffin** was hired. Scratch all of the above. Alabama's starting quarterback will be a gift from the national championship team. **Jacob Coker**, the back up quarterback to freshman **Jameis**

**Winston** (Heisman Trophy winner) at Florida State has seen the handwriting on the wall. He will never play for the Seminoles. His graduation early from Florida State allows him to transfer to any NCAA Division I school and be immediately eligible. Guess who he chose? Nick Saban. Saban is like an ant eater. He is constantly scouring around with his nose to the ground scooping up talent anywhere his nose takes him. This is maybe his best “ant”. **Jacob Coker** will have two years of eligibility. He is probably a better quarterback for Alabama than **Winston** would have been. He matches almost all the qualities listed above for a Saban quarterback. Good show Nick Saban!

As far as the losses in the offensive and defensive lines, there are equal to better players moving into position. As far as the secondary, which was sub-par last year, will be better because Alabama has better talent to coach. The loss of linebacker **C. J. Mosley** will be felt in the early games, but Alabama has as much talent at linebacker as its ever had. So, look for the same type team in 2014, with a few wrinkles thrown in by Lane Kiffin.

The Auburn Tigers shocked the football world last year in Gus Malzahn's first year at the helm. Going from 3-9 in 2012 to 10-2 in 2014, and playing for the national championship. This has never been done in the history of NCAA football. Repeating this feat will be difficult for Auburn, not because the Tigers won't be as good as last year. It will be because of a beefed up schedule with most of the “tuffies” on the road. Auburn will actually be a better football team in 2014. Why? Because they have more good players than last year. Coach Gus Malzhan will for the first time in his nine year college coaching career have a returning starting

quarterback. This is an amazing fact because at every stop he produced an outstanding quarterback with no starting experience. That's why I call him “*Malzhan the Magician*”. If he doesn't produce with a returning starter, I may have to reexamine my opinion. However, “Mr. Reliable”, **Nick Marshall** will have a year in the Malzhan system and things have never looked brighter on the Plains. There are two departing seniors that will be hard to replace. That's running back **Tre Mason** and left tackle **Greg Robinson**. Robinson will go early in the first round. Defensive end **Dee Ford** will go late in the first round. Ford will be missed, but Auburn has a lot of good defensive ends to rotate in and out. They don't have a lot of good left tackles to rotate. Robinson meant more to the Auburn offense that we realized. He may

be the first offensive tackle taken in the NFL draft on May 8th. **Patrick Miller** who started at right tackle last year is the most likely heir to the important left tackle spot. The 6-7, 285 lb. junior will have to do a yeomans job. There is no one else that fits.

Tre Mason is the other guy that Auburn will miss. However, their are two running backs with more speed that have had a lot of experience in the Tiger backfield. They are senior **Corey Grant**, a 5-11, 205 lb. speedster that transferred to Auburn from Alabama three years ago. Then there is senior **Cameron Artis-Payne**, a 5-11, 215 lb. power back with speed. One of these two will replace Tre Mason. There are a group of redshirt freshmen and true freshmen that may move into one of the backfield positions. Auburn will miss **Jay Prosch** at fullback, but in Malzhan's system that position can be adequately played by a tight end. Auburn has enough tight ends to choose from. The secondary was terrible last year as well as the linebacking corps, so whoever earns these spots will be an improvement. Auburn will be better. Will their record be better? That's one thing we will just have to see play out as the season goes along.

Earlier in this column statistics were discussed. Troy had a quarterback for four years who put up ridiculous numbers as a passer. Corey Robinson set records that may never be broken at

Troy. However, **Coach Larry Blakeney** is tired of records. He is looking for wins after three sub-par seasons. **Brandon Silvers** or junior college transfer **Dontreal Pruitt** will probably guide the Trojans this year, but running back **Brandon Burks** will probably carry a lot of the load. Coach Blakeney says that he will not abandon the passing offense that he has been running. My guess is that he is drawing up running plays to integrate into the attack while you are reading this column. It is my belief that Troy will play better defense this year and keep the ball on the ground more. That's the kind of football Blakeney cut his teeth on. Go Trojans!

*Who's gonn'a fill their shoes?* That is what is so great about college football. We really don't know. Be patient. You will know soon enough. August is not far away!



**A. J. McCarron**



**Greg Robinson**



**Tre Mason**



**Corey Robinson**



**Ronald A. Holtsford**



## WHENEVER I TRY TO FIND OUT ABOUT A FRIEND IN THE HOSPITAL THEY WON'T TELL ME LIKE THEY DID YEARS AGO AND I SEE THIS ACRONYM HIPAA WITH HEALTH PRIVACY ISSUES. WHAT IS ALL OF THIS?

HIPAA is the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act. Congress passed the law in 1996, but the Privacy and Security portions were not signed into law until 2003. For purposes of this answer I am going to cover the Privacy and Security laws forward. In 2009 the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) was enacted to make the sharing of electronic medical records (EMR) or electronic health records (EHR) to be more efficient which includes "meaningful use". "Meaningful Use" includes a financial initiative for doctors and hospitals to be fully in to using an EMR system. With an increase in electronic protected health information (ePHI) there is a greater concern that someone might "hack" into hospitals, health care plans and doctor's offices. This would be disastrous on a larger scale than the Target store hack since it could involve more private information to include social security numbers.

Doctors offices are scrambling now to meet the deadlines not only to qualify for incentive payments but also to keep from losing on certain future payments. If you have been shown a computer at your doctors office to sign in on and look at your information or been given a web address to sign into a patient portal then you are experiencing at least a portion of your doctor working towards "meaningful use". It is our natural preference to want to speak to a person about our health care because the black and white of what we may access does not answer all of our questions. Fear not, because human beings are still very necessary. When we are directed to use computers it may not necessarily be the idea of your doctor but rather a necessary direction that he or she must take based on governmental directives.

Those with certified EHR's (beginning in 2011) are eligible for an additional \$63,750.00 over six years and eligible participants must begin receiving payments once eligible by 2016. Medicare providers can start receiving a maximum of \$44,000.00 over five years if eligible. Doctors who do not become eligible by 2015 will see a loss of one percent of Medicare payments increasing to three percent over three years.

The Stage I, "Meaningful Use" eligibility requires doctors to meet 19 of 24 objectives and

eligible hospitals to have achieved 18 of 23 objectives to receive incentive money.

To the public it just seems that no one will tell us what we want to know about some people when we are genuinely concerned about their health and now we are being directed more towards computers than we may want. It seems like there is not much going on with the doctors or hospitals.

The truth is there is alot going on with doctors, hospitals and health plans. The groups are divided into the "Covered Entity" and the "Business Associate". The "Covered Entity" is the doctor or hospital or health care plan. Those companies or individuals that have routine access to PHI or ePHI are "Business Associates". Think about the folks that come in to repair the CT machine made by "ACME CT" (fictitious name) who are able to see ePHI of patients that have been given a CT examination. As an employee of "ACME CT" they are bound by the legal agreement between the covered entity and their company as Business Associate under a document called a "Business Associate Agreement". If they were to note that a public official or celebrity had been scanned, an unscrupulous employee of "ACME CT" might share their diagnosis for a fee with some less than reputable publication. For you or me to have that same information shared may have a smaller pool of interested persons but nevertheless disastrous to us. Because the bad or negligent acts of a Business Associate also share liability with the Covered Entity, Covered Entities are especially cautious with who they hire as Business Associates and the terms of the Agreement which may include indemnification and mitigation clauses. When you think about it a "Covered Entity" could have hundreds or thousands of Business Associate Agreements needed; fortunately there are three general exceptions called the TPO exception. The "T" stands for treatment, so that includes all doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, imaging centers, etc. that need to share information in the treatment of a patient. The "P" exception is for Payment, so all of the health plans including Medicare and Medicaid are excluded so that ePHI and PHI can be shared. Finally, the "O" is operations which includes needed auditors, consultants, accountants, attorneys, quality improvement, etc. needed for "Operations". Even within the "Covered Entity" itself the employees are guided by a "principal of minimum necessary", where the employee ONLY looks at the information necessary to do their job and to treat patients. An

employee that has access to computerized image databases has no reason to look at imaging studies not associated with a particular patient that they are assisting with the treatment of. It can even be a fireable offense if an employee is found to be looking at the medical images of others which may include their family members or even themselves.

Should a breach of PHI or ePHI occur the Covered Entity must notify within sixty days (1) the individuals whose information has been a part of the breach (2) the Secretary of Health and Human Services and if it involves more than five hundred people (3) the media. How awful this could be for the individuals and for a hospital, doctor or health plan that has worked hard for a good reputation. Many of the most recent breaches have occurred because of stolen laptops that have PHI/ ePHI on them. Penalties can run up to \$1.5 million per year and can include imprisonment for wrongdoers. There have already been penalties to occur into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Doctors, hospitals and health plans have hired Compliance Officers to work with Health Law attorneys to ensure that they are doing what is necessary to be inline with all of the laws and to be aware of the changes in the law.

"Covered Entities" are expending increasing amounts of money on Information Technology personnel and consultants, Compliance Officers and Health Law attorneys just to keep up with the laws and to continue receiving the maximum payments by health care plans. The next time you have to sign into a computer at your doctor's office, that may not have been at the doctor's initiative.

*This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney-client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist.*

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Bikes will be heading out at 11:00am for a fun-filled poker run. Everyone is welcomed on 2, 4 or no wheels! Registration starts at 9:30am. There will be lots of great prizes, event shirts, patches, door prizes, food, raffles, and live music! \$20 per hand, \$10 per passenger. Proceeds of this run will go to benefiting Child Protect Children's Advocacy Center, a non-profit organization whose mission is to interview, counsel, and be an advocate for children when there are allegations of abuse. Participants are encouraged to bring a stuffed teddy bear to donate to the Child Protect's teddy bear collection. Child Protect has a room they take the child going through a crisis and have them to pick a bear from the shelf. They carry this bear with them throughout the whole process of interviews and talking with a counselor, and allow them to take it home. So bring a bear to provide that child with some sort of comfort for all the pain they have had to endure. This run is organized by the ladies of Leather & Lace MC, an international motorcycle club for women.

([www.leatherandlacmc.com](http://www.leatherandlacmc.com)).

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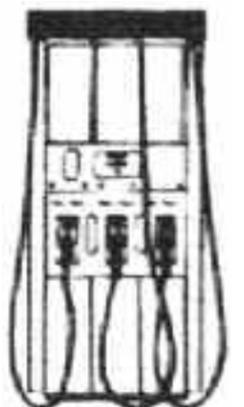
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# Bench-Bar- & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

## CRIME: HUMAN ECONOMICS

In the two preceding articles we pointed out that the principle cause of crime is inadequate moral formation, and that spending money on law enforcement and penitentiaries does not solve the basic problem. In this column we will explore social dynamics that underscore these two points. Let's start by saying that crime in general is not the product of brilliant minds. A great contest between extremely intelligent criminals and equally intelligent law enforcement officers makes good movies, but we are not filling the prisons with a lot of smart people. Statistically, the court system processes people who are below average in intelligence and below average in skills. The penal system is the recipient. Basically our penitentiaries warehouses ignorance. Let's examine why that is the case.

In our social system everyone is required to make some contribution to the welfare of society. "Whoever does not work, neither shall he eat". That ancient principle expresses our economic and social truth. After Adam Smith invented modern economics we began to assign value to commodities. The Industrial Revolution started the process of making every individual a unit of production in society. Then came the age of technology where greater skills were required in order to be a productive member of society. Education became a necessity. Graduation became the rite of passage to the world of useful adults. Salaries reward skills. It was inevitable that human beings would be assigned an economic value. A certain percentage of human beings do not have as much "economic value" in an industrial, technological culture as others. They are "worth less" but too often that translates "worthless". Many of these unfortunate individuals wind up in the penitentiary. And the penitentiary is not likely to cause them to "be all they can be."

The simplistic solution "We should teach them to read" is not a satisfactory answer. Not everyone has the same talents. The thing that makes a person a highly productive unit in society is the fact that he or she possesses the ability to acquire the necessary skills. Likewise, the same thing that makes them unable to read is what causes them not to have great economic value. If a person lacks ability, then the outlook is not real bright. The inability to read and lack of economic productivity result from the same underlying cause. Encouraging everyone to learn to read and to attain as much education as possible is a wonderful

idea, but falls short of solving the problem for individuals who are "worth less".

While the assignment will be quite difficult, society needs to recognize that God did not make any trash. We need to recognize that every person has worth, and we need to search for ways to help to achieve that worth. We need to find their strong points. We need a legal system that allows everyone to achieve his or her most beneficial station in life. We need group functions that promote individual achievement for those who are "worth less".

The task will not be easy. The solution does not include sending ignorance to the penitentiary, but it does not include rewarding the commission of crime by giving the person who committed crime greater educational and training opportunities than is provided to the general population.

Perhaps the answer lies in a system that identifies persons who are likely candidates for criminal activity and provides special opportunities for them, not as a reward for committing crime, but that provides opportunities before crime happens. We have to intercept the problem before it results in crime. My friends in the teaching profession tell me that it is probably not difficult to identify the likely candidates. At the same time, the difficulty will be identifying those candidates without stigmatizing them. Finding a totally positive approach is the challenge.

Ultimately, the laws of economics—supply and demand—operate on what human society believes to be important. If we think that money is the ultimate good, then the laws of economics will govern and be based on the demand for money. If we truly believe that every human being has intrinsic worth, the laws of economics will govern our lives together based on human worth being our most important value.

Reworking our value system is a task for churches and religious organizations. "I was in prison and you visited me..." But let's not wait until the visit has to be in prison. "Even as you have done it unto one of the least of these..."



Judge Philip Dale Segrest

Want to know more about the author or to comment on the column:

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## Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers



Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His column appears weekly in 72 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the state legislature. He may be reached at [www.steveflowers.us](http://www.steveflowers.us)

The Gallup poll has come out with their ranking of the most conservative and most liberal states in America.

Last year we were ranked as the most conservative in the country. We lost that mantle to Wyoming this year. In fact, we fell

dramatically to number ten. In past years either Alabama or one of our sister southern Bible Belt states took home the title. This year the Western states made inroads into our group in the top ten rankings.

The most conservative states are always located in the South and West, while the most liberal states are found on the East and West coasts. Thus the label that we like to bestow on Californians is that both they and their philosophy are from the left coast.

Following number one Wyoming in order of conservatism are Mississippi, Idaho, Utah, Montana, Arkansas, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee and number ten Alabama.

The ten most liberal states are Vermont, Massachusetts, Delaware, New York, Hawaii, Oregon, Maine, California and New Jersey. Not surprisingly, the top ten liberal states all voted for Barack Obama in 2008 and in 2012, while all of the top ten conservative states voted for the Republican nominees in the past two presidential elections.

This same Gallup poll ranked the states on their Democratic-leaning and Republican-leaning propensities. As you might expect, the conservative states rank high as Republican havens and the liberal states rank high as Democratic enclaves. There are more Democratic-leaning states than Republican. That probably explains why Barack Obama is President.

Wyoming, which was ranked the most conservative state, also came in as the most Republican state in the nation. We ranked number nine in the country in Republicanism. Our sister southern state of South Carolina likes to boast of being America's most Republican state. However, they were ranked number ten, just behind us.

The most Republican states in order are Wyoming, Utah, North Dakota, Idaho, Kansas, Alaska, South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Oklahoma, Alabama and South Carolina. The most Democratic states are New York, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maryland, Vermont, California, Illinois, Delaware, New Jersey and New Mexico.

Gallup also ranked the states in order of who was the most and least religious. We came in third in the country when it comes to religion. The only two states more religious are the Mormon state of Utah and our sister Bible Belt state

of Mississippi. In fact, Mississippi edged out Utah for number one.

The ranking of the most religious states in America are Mississippi, Utah, Alabama, Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Arkansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Kentucky. The South dominates when it comes to religion. No wonder folks refer to us as the Bible Belt.

The ten least religious states are Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Oregon, Nevada, Washington, Connecticut and Hawaii. You can safely say the people in the Northeast are not very religious.

What this all tells you is that you do not have to be a profound intellectual political scientist to analyze American politics. If you live in the Midwest or South, you are likely to be a religious, conservative Republican. If you live in the Northeast or on the West Coast you are probably not very religious and you are a liberal Democrat.

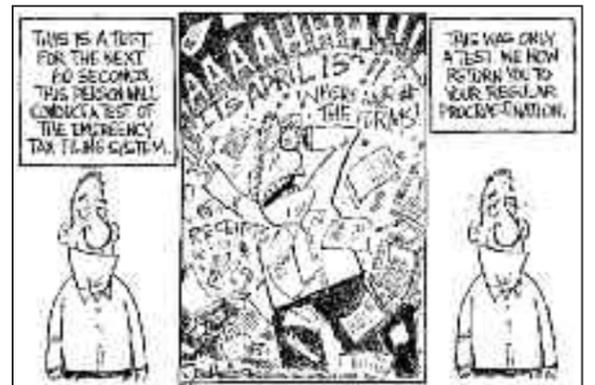
In the meantime, our Alabama legislature is determined to prove that they are the most conservative legislative body in America. As this year's legislative session winds down they are finishing their four-year mission to rid the state of immigrants and abortions and making sure that folks can carry a gun anywhere they want.

These strident and meaningless stream of ultra right wing initiatives are designed to placate Alabama's conservative electorate. They may be passed with the intent to become Alabama law. However, they are automatically outlawed by the first federal court, usually after a cursory few hours of review.

The anti-immigration measure passed the first year of the quadrennium was laughed out of court right away. This year's anti-abortion bill is so blatantly unconstitutional that a sixth grade civic student would know that it will never be administered.

This charade is great political year pandering. They also want the rest of the country to know that Wyoming and Mississippi are not more conservative than us. They figure we need to send them a message.

April 2, 2014



# Community Lifestyles

## Montgomery County

Cities, Towns and Communities:  
 Montgomery, Pike Road, Cecil, Mathews, Pine Level, Grady, Ramer, Lapine, Snowdown, Pintlala, Hope Hull and Catoma

## Autauga County

Surrounding Town and Communities:  
 Prattville, Autaugaville, Billingsley, Booth, Marbury, Pine Level, Independence, Statesville and Vida

## Elmore County

Surrounding Town and Communities:  
 Wetumpka, Millbrook, Coosada, Elmore, Eclectic, Tallassee, Titus, Santuck, Slapout, Rockford, Deatsville, Kent, Red Hill, Weoka and Robinson Springs

## Tallapoosa County

Surrounding Town and Communities:  
 Tallassee, Rockford, Deatsville, Kent, Red Hill, Weoka

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## " The Kritter Korner "





Ron and Angie VanHerwyn are owners of Ron's Kritter Kids (Wildlife education). Ron is retired Army and a former police officer. Angie is AGR a full time National Guard Human Resources Sergeant. Kritter Kids was formed in 2006 but didn't become official until 2009. They had the opportunity to appear on WSFAs County Road 12 with Judd Davis a couple of years ago, and just recently appeared on Absolutely Alabama. Their knowledge of wildlife is extensive, but specialize in the field of Procyon Lotor (Raccoon). They have cared for wildlife for over 10 years, but rehabbed them for 15 years. They are USDA Animal Welfare Act licensed, and Alabama State permitted for the possession of wildlife for public exhibition purposes. They travel about educating people about the "Do's" and "Don'ts", and the different types of animals indigenous to the State of Alabama how they behave, socialize and the places they inhabit. They have animals that are trained to be ambassadors for educational programs. They have 19 special needs raccoons and raccoons with disabilities that are blind, mild to severe brain damaged, amputees, disfigured, and deaf, and have four albino raccoons and two leucistic (blond) raccoons which are extremely rare born 1/500,000 in the wild. Ron and Angie prefer to take in special needs animals versus healthy ones. Kritter Kids conducts classes for colleges, home schooling, homeowners associations, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4H groups, wildlife rehabilitation groups etc.

**Ron & Angie VanHerwyn**  
 Kritter kids  
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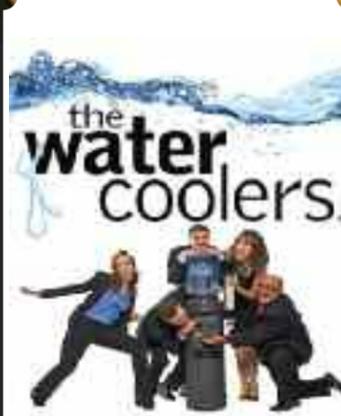
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## The Education Station... By Bobbie Ames

# GOOD BOOKS, GOOD FRIENDS, GREAT STORIES ...NEVER FORGOTTEN

Several years ago The Harvard Education Letter's lead article was titled "The Power of Family Conversation." (Vol. 24, No. 3, 2008) It began, "School matters, but literacy starts at home. Teachers armed with reading contracts and carefully worded missives have long urged parents to read aloud to their children. But now there is a second and perhaps more powerful message. Talk with your kids too."

Mounting research proves that language rich families with great communication is linked to school achievement and overall success in life. Shouldn't common sense tell us that? One interesting fact among many in the article is that children from three to five are "ripe" in rich language learning. And this prompts me to focus this month's article on reading, and not just "reading to be reading," but reading good stories, good books, that we remember a lifetime, and enjoy reading over and over again.

Those little ones – from ages two to five – are truly sponges. Read aloud every day to them... **Grimm's Fairy Tales** and **Hans Christian Anderson's** wonderful stories, and don't neglect **Mother Goose**. Even amid the ridiculous and the hysterical, you find lessons in reality. Jack falls down and breaks his crown, and Jill comes tumbling after. Humpty Dumpty couldn't be put together again. In the world of great children's literature anything is possible, and the little minds learn from the stories that the "bad guy" never wins because darkness is overcome by light. There are always "good knights" ready to fight for what is right.

In nearly 48 years of teaching at home and at school, I believe that the best moral education is through wonderful and moral stories. The ideas of virtue have to be taught. We are all born with a sin nature, and no wonder that sin is natural to the natural man. **William Bennett's Book of Virtues** is a book that should be in every home. His book provides stories, poems, and essays from the annals of human history and great literature. It is a book for every age – child and adult alike. It will minister to people of different religious faiths, and treat every reader as though he or she is a moral agent. This book speaks to the mind and heart. It addresses the inner man within us, teaching virtues including compassion, courage, honesty, friendship and faith.

Take time for humor, even for the ridiculous, or even the preposterous in good stories, for it can sometimes teach a lesson that is sublime. Cherish the evenings that you read **Kipling's "Just So Stories."** Read these to them before they can read themselves: "How the Camel Got His Hump," "How the Whale Got His Throat," "How the Leopard Got His Spot." And of course, read Kipling's "Jungle Tales." Share the adventure, the hunger for courage, the examples of loyalty, the challenge of a dare. And **Kenneth Graham's The Wind in the Willows** teaches the value of a friend and the absolute joy of life. **George McDonald's At the Back of the North Wind** takes us to Scotland and expands our imagination. And there are so many more in the world of true literature and culture for the hungry hearts and the seeking souls. And in the short years to come, they can read the same stories to you that you have read over and over to them. Please build a home library with books that can be held.

Are these challenges for very young children? Of course they are, and just what they need to be challenged for the difficult - to absorb beauty, truth, and courage. There is an inner kingdom being fortified with adventure, with bravery. We call this kingdom the soul. And to strengthen both mind and heart, start very early with Bible stories, but don't read and teach them as you do the fairy tales. From the opening of the pages, stress the difference in these stories from other stories. After all, our Heavenly Father is telling these stories to us, through the individuals that He chose to write them down. These are true stories and are life lessons. They are gifts to be unwrapped at special family times, hopefully at evening devotions.

For the elementary and middle school students **Longfellow's "Hiawatha,"** and **"The Sage of King Olaf,"** Coleridge's **"Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner,"** **"The Arabian Nights,"** each one having the challenge of loyalty and courage and doing what is "right." And there are so many from which to choose ... **Nathaniel Hawthorne, Emily Dickinson, Lord Tennyson, Henry Louis Stevenson, Charles Dickens, Robert Frost, William Shakespeare, Robert Browning, Jack London,** and so many others. We always had Thanksgiving at our grandparents' home, about a sixty mile drive. We learned the meaning of "smorgasbord" – when two giant sideboards were filled with tantalizing dishes to serve over sixty people, all family. Stories for children should be that varied. The short stories should be well written, and great for character development of every age child, poems that tell a story, but have music and rhythm in the beat. Children love a mystery, providing that they can solve it. Excellent stories introduce the young child to imagery and figurative language. An example is **Robert Frost's** poem, **"The Road Not Taken."** How wonderful for a teen to grasp the meaning of Frost's poem ...

**"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I ----  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference."**

Another wonderful story that was a bestseller in the 1970s is **Jonathan Livingston Seagull,** by **Richard Bach.** Most seagulls don't bother to learn anything but the simplest facts of flight ... how to get to the food source and back. Flying is not all that important, only eating. Jonathan is a different seagull. More than anything Jonathan loved to fly and wanted to learn more about flying, and about the world, about different altitudes, about different creatures, and the

techniques that would lead to excellence. Even his parents didn't understand his desire to be the very best that he could be, his determination which led to his becoming the fastest seagull alive. Though he longed for the flock to benefit from his achievement, they did not choose to do so. His high speed dive brought him the rare and tasty fish that schooled ten feet below the surface of the ocean. Jonathan believed that gulls had short lives because they were bored and lived in fear. He lived in perfect liberty and "lived a long, fine life indeed." Celebrate God's principle of individuality, and your child's uniqueness; build upon it.

In traditional schools, the middle and high school student study real History, and usually in the sequence of: History of the Ancient World, The Middle Ages, The Renaissance, and The Modern World. In a study of the Ancient World, there should be a strong emphasis on the Old Testament, and please, do not neglect the Psalms and Proverbs. The great Epics of **Homer's Iliad and Odyssey** deserve a careful study, these assumed to have been written about 850 B.C. It is a picture of Greek culture that is memorable – their pagan religion, but also their bravery and determination. Sea nymphs could marry mortals, and Zeus was one of many gods, but the most powerful of all. Reading Homer is a test for one's imagination and hopefully well worth it. Most classes move to the Athenian Democracy and study the History of the Peloponnesian War with the aid of Thucydides. Writers across the centuries from 500 B.C. to Vergil (70-19 B.C.) are Sophocles, Euripides, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, and others of note.

Jesus' birth ushers in the New Testament period in History – His birth, ministry, death, and resurrection – the Early Epistles. This is also an opportunity to discover **Augustine's "Confessions," "The Song of Roland," "The Sage of Hrafnkel Priest of Frey," Dante's "Divine Comedy."** And especially **Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales,"** which brings us to the English Language. (1340-1400?) **Sir Thomas Malory's Le Morte d Arthur** still ranks high with every History student I ever taught. How could anyone not love chivalry? The challenge to every young man, and a thrill to every young maiden who dreams of her own Prince Charming.

This brings us to the period we know as the Renaissance in both History and Literature. Space will not permit us to talk through this period in Literature this month, but perhaps another time. The broad cultural and political characteristics of every age are mirrored in their literature. Most of the philosophers in this period and the moderns sadly concluded that reality is reduced to the world of matter. To them, man is the measure of all things.

However, let us not neglect the importance of the literature of Western Civilization, as that has, over centuries, formed our own culture. The English drama, as all western European drama, had its origin in religious observance and rituals. There is no evidence that the early English adapted the Roman theatre's drama to their culture. But the Epic held high honor, and was often complex. Thankfully, **John Dewey** was not present in our formation to overrule these very complex narratives and expanding language usage. Though varied in form and content, English literature projects a strong, even fierce, masculinity. That is not an offense to me. In fact, man was created to be strong, to lead, to provide for his family. There are strong ethical principles woven into the stories. Sometimes there is the pessimism of the human condition. That is reality, and not an offense to acknowledge it. Select a variety of English literature over the past centuries and determine to read aloud at home. It will be a challenge, rewarding, edifying, and a connection with those in your family circle, but also a connection with those who have gone before us. Let it be an act of renewal of goodness and greatness within us.



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# Pike Road News



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## PIKE ROAD FIREFIGHTER ANDREW GERACHIS HONORED AS APRIL GIVING OUR BEST



Pike Road Fire Department

Andrew Gerachis of the Pike Road Fire/Rescue is being recognized as the April giving our best recipient not only for his dedication, commitment, but also his courage. Gerachis has been volunteering with the Pike Road Fire Department for eight years. He is described as a team player and a dedicated member of the Department. Gerachis has completed a number of training courses conducted by the Pike Road Fire Department. He is a certified volunteer firefighter and first responder. Gerachis received the 2010 Chief's award. Other community volunteering includes serving on the Town's school committee. In the past, he was involved with the summer fest committee and served on the Pike Road Fire Advisory committee for four years. A realtor for nine years, Gerachis is currently employed by New Waters Realty. A resident of the town of Pike Road,



Gerachis is married to Cathy. Andrew loves spending time with his family, gardening and volunteering with the fire department. He also enjoys the camaraderie with all the volunteers during the annual Boston butt cooking. "Volunteering for the Pike Road Fire Department is a way to give back to my community. Serving the community is something I take great pride in. Volunteering with the fire department has turned into a passion. I care about the community and want to keep it safe," Gerachis humbly said. Andrew Gerachis is an example of a member who willingly gives to the department and community when called upon. On top of his many accomplishments, training, good deeds and community work, he is a great leader. His dedication and professionalism have made him a very deserving recipient of the April giving our best. For more information on how you can make a difference in the Pike Road community, visit the Pike Road Fire Department website at [www.pikeroadfire.com](http://www.pikeroadfire.com) or phone Fire Chief Mike Green at (334) 271-1048.

## PIKE ROAD LADIES AUXILIARY SPRING CONSIGNMENT SALE CHILDREN'S CLOTHING, TOYS, FURNITURE AND MORE....

The Pike Road Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring Pike Road's first children's consignment sale. This gives modern moms the easy way to get great deals on gently used clothing, clear closet space, earn cash and help others in the community.

Currently, over thirty consigners have registered to participate in this sale. Children grow so fast and items like clothes, strollers, car seats, cribs and toys many barely used will be available for purchase. The consignment sale will offer a unique venue for both sellers and shoppers. You will also find the most popular clothing brands, toys kids love and much more....all in one location.



**The consignment sale is open to the public on Saturday, April 5 from 8:00am until 6:00pm at fire station # 2 (Bridlebrook Farms Neighborhood) 334 Bridlebrook Blvd.** We will be accepting cash and checks only. At this time, credit cards will not be accepted. Please plan accordingly.

For more information visit the Pike Road Ladies Auxiliary Consignment Sale Facebook page, or email your name and address to [olesenh@bellsouth.net](mailto:olesenh@bellsouth.net).

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John Sophocleus

# THINK

The views of this editorial may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.

## MRS. GRANT GOES TO MONTGOMERY - A.K.A. "GOAT HILL"

Readers like me, a little 'long in the tooth,' will more easily make the connection to the Jimmy Stewart film *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. Considered controversial when released in 1939 yet so successful at the box office, this classic is oft cited as the film which made Stewart an undisputed movie star. Similar to another Frank Capra directed movie "*It's a Wonderful Life*" [1946] it would take many years to be recognized and appreciated. In 1989 the Library of Congress added *Mr. Smith* to the US National film registry for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."



Jimmy Stewart

For younger readers unfamiliar with this Capra classic, the story begins with a governor's decision to replace the remaining term of deceased Senator. The governor is pressured by his political boss and gaggle of pro-government thugs to install their sycophant certain to vote for the predetermined wealth transfers already in motion. The governor's children, disinterested in political theft, champion selecting Jefferson Smith, leader of the 'Boy Rangers' played by Jimmy Stewart. Unable to decide between the political crony and the youth leader the governor flips a coin which lands on edge, fortuitously next to a newspaper article about Smith's good deeds. The governor finally decides to go with Mr. Smith,

forecasting his popular squeaky clean image will cloak the pro-government thugs' avarice; his affable demeanor and inexperience of the real world workings inside DC would make him easy to control/use toward their ends.

The newly minted Junior Senator Smith is taken under the wing of long standing establishment Senator Joseph Paine (played by Claude Rains) well regarded by the mainstream media. Smith's naïve and honest way allows the unforgiving DC press corps to take advantage of him, quickly trashing Smith's reputation with absurd front page pictures and headlines labeling him a foolish bumpkin. To keep him busy, Senator Paine suggests Smith propose a bill. He drafts legislation to authorize federal loans to acquire land in his home State for a national boys' camp, which will be paid back by youth across America. Donations quickly follow, but Smith's proposed campsite is part of a dam-building political theft project included in the appropriations bill submitted by Sen. Paine for his pro-government minions.

The establishment thugs go all out with their political machine accusing Smith of graft for himself via his national boys' camp bill using fraudulent evidence showing Smith already owned the land in question. So shocked by Paine's betrayal and the ruthless political thug tactics Smith runs away instead of defending himself. Convinced to return, he is instructed on how to filibuster the pro-government thugs' appropriations bill and prove his innocence on the Senate floor just before a vote to expel him. Smith's filibuster lasts many hours, explaining the American ideals of freedom and exposing the true motives of the dam scheme; naturally his fellow Senators are unconvinced.

Smith's constituents mount a formidable rally in support, but the establishment political machine is overpowering. The newspapers and non-print media in Smith's home state refuse to report what Smith has to say and further distort the truth against him. Efforts by the Boy Rangers to spread the facts and vindicate Smith result in vicious attacks on the children by pro-government thugs. All seems hopeless as the predicted outcome unfolds and Senators begin to pay attention to Smith's final hoarse utterances in final collapse after vowing to continue until the people believe him. Crushed with guilt Paine leaves the Senate chamber and attempts suicide but stopped by fellow Senators. After the unsuccessful attempt, Sen. Paine bursts back into the Senate floor for a full confession claiming HE should be expelled from the Senate affirming Smith's innocence.

Why all this type about a 75 year old classic movie about politics? Federal projects in Alabama taking land to victimize owners and transfer wealth to the politically connected; Alabama legislature blocking 'unfriendly' press exposing their corruption; Gubernatorial appointments to cronies like Riley's infamous episode in South Alabama or Siegelman's appointing Scrusby to advance hospital monopolies; Grand jury investigating the Speaker of the House using his position to funnel business to his failing companies; a \$1 million unsecured loan following a failed \$1.7 million loan (according to one of in the 'unfriendly' press recently blocked) to a politician vulgar in his use of power to offset/continue his poor business practices and defend corruption in our State; etc... Sound familiar?



Loretta Grant

Now to the more refreshing title of **Mrs. Grant goes to Montgomery - aka "Goat Hill"**. This wonderful Southern lady encompasses all that is good about Alabama and has been a righteous force to expose/reduce corruption and hate in our State. Loretta Grant is unopposed in the Republican primary, so many may not have heard nor will see/hear much about her candidacy until after the June 3rd primary. Allow me to provide some facts on and observations of this exemplary candidate who WILL make a difference IF allowed in the Legislature.

Loretta Grant founded the Alabama Gazette in 2000 with a vision of a community newspaper to promote traditional Christian values which include small government conservative principles, in her understanding that resistance to tyranny is obedience to God. The Gazette has always recognised God as our source of power from where ALL blessings flow - not government(s). Furthermore, how well we follow God's path (using Jesus as the perfect example) will be reflected in our lives and families at the micro-level and in our nation at the macro-level. It is His judgment that matters to Loretta in the end.

Her promise to God to champion the life of unborn children has been well kept. I was delighted Loretta understood how adamant I am about Roe v. Wade being unconstitutional (murder is not an issue authorised to the federal government) and further understood the despair of knowing my taxes are used to subsidise murder. If they want to allow murder of this sort in Massachusetts - they may, but don't force me to aid and abet abominations of this magnitude which forces the blood on my hands.

When we first met, Mrs. Grant made it very clear to me her goal has always been to encourage her readers to "think" and question (esp. the established media) matters of great importance. As some readers may recall, Loretta determined the "Think" moniker for my page; I pray she and more importantly the Master we both love and serve may think I've lived up to the task. Loretta is very adept in her solid faith when applying God's wisdom to problems of today. It is easy to see this from what is printed in the Gazette. She always encourages people to respond with editorials, even ones she may disagree with as long as it exhibits one may "think" in a reasonable/logical manner for themselves. Now co-owned with Samuel Adams (how's that for a great namesake to accomplish this blessed task) the Gazette continues to grow and spread throughout the State. This wise and determined lady has turned down several buyout offers over these past dozen or so years, knowing 'competitors' wanted to remove this voice of reason and the people. No surprise

this successful endeavour in Montgomery will beckon minions trying to dim and snuff out the righteous light the Gazette has shown on things Republicrats would prefer kept in the dark.

Loretta grew up in rural Montgomery County and is well rooted in the area. She married William H. Grant from Ramer and recently celebrated their 51st Anniversary. They have three 'biological sons' and God has further blessed them with other 'special sons' to love and share their lives with who've begat many grandchildren and great-grandchildren from all these sons as the circle of life continues. Loretta's sound foundation forged in her belief in Jesus Christ has carried her through the joys and tribulations of a remarkable life including being kidnapped at age 19 and the loss of a 3 year old daughter to drowning. Sharing her faith with others through her church's Women's Bible Study group and conducting Women's Conferences for these past dozen years are also among her many evangelistic callings. An accomplished public speaker, Loretta is very generous with her time and talents always willing and available to address all church and civic organizations.

If there's anyone who doesn't think starting a newspaper and keeping it functioning since 2000 under some difficult times for the industry and little money isn't impressive enough, there are many more impressive business accomplishments to enumerate. A Realtor for over 35 years (licensed Broker) Loretta owned Grant Properties LLC for over seven years with a group of over a dozen seasoned agents. Real Estate was also a ministry to her. She embodies the entrepreneurial spirit owning many other businesses in the past; downtown Montgomery restaurant, rural variety store and co-owner of an upscale boutique and gallery to name a few. She's been an integral part in making dreams come true for others; in full, humble knowledge God must be the emphasis of all endeavours. Mrs. Grant has recently started writing a book about her walk with God - I look forward to reading the final print.

At risk of over playing the Jimmy Stewart analogy - I've used his George Bailey character from "*It's a Wonderful Life*" to explain Loretta Grant's impact on Montgomery in a past column. Imagine how different the town would be without her (or someone like her) touching so many lives in a positive way. Now is the time to send **Mrs. Grant to Montgomery - a.k.a. 'Goat Hill,'** to remove some of the despotic waste and deleterious spirit of letting corruption abound in our state government. Loretta's political instincts are much better than mine, she was the second (after James Hines) to impress upon me early on the Tea Party movement would become a force which would make a difference in America. Loretta is one of several tea party/small government conservative matches unfolding in our State. Establishment Republicans were truly scared by a recent survey which reported over a third within their own Party think the tea party is positive.

Continued on page 15



**Judge  
Peggy Givhan**

# SOUTHERN GARDENING

## APRIL POTPOURRI - by Peggy Givhan

As life should have it, mistakes can be made when composing on the computer. Please note that in rereading last month's article, I saw a typo that I thought I had corrected prior to sending. The ground cover featured and also referred to in the article should be Vinca Major and not Vinca Minor. Mea culpa.

The weather has been so volatile, warm some days followed by freezes. Hopefully, by the time of the release of this article, spring will have arrived in all of its glory. Cheers for the gorgeous shrubs displaying an abundance of color. Just in my yard, I have several bright yellow forsythia flanked behind with 15 foot purple leafed loropetalum bushes filled with pink flowers and a few dogwoods just starting to open their delicate white blooms. Incidentally, if you desire a screen or just a few colorful shrubs, nothing beats the workhorse, loropetalum. Blooming twice a year, this shrub has no pests which I have been able to detect, does not need pruning as has a loose and airy shape, and the flowers and leaves look spectacular in flower arrangements. Also, they are readily available at nurseries and garden centers. What a care free beauty you can enjoy for years to come. They can get up to 20 feet, and can be pruned back in the early fall if desired.

**What to do this month in the garden** is always a question I get around the first of the season. I either make a plan for spring and summer bed or refer

to the plan I made last fall. Since the winter was harsh, I noticed that some of my snaps and a few of the pansies took a hit. I purchased large pots of mature snaps and pansies at a garden center and plugged in the holes.

Pansies, violas and other cool weather annuals will begin to die back in late May due to the heat index, so replanting with the same plants will give a full bed until then. I did not get many poppies this year because someone who thought they were helping applied pine straw to many of the seeded areas. But with a few plants, I gathered them together in one area, and replanted. Poppies can be transplanted while still young. Be sure to dig up a nice root ball of dirt, replant, water, and they will not know the difference.

Of course it goes without saying that weeding the tender spring weeds is a must. These are not difficult to extract, and should be repeated weekly until none are left. Heavens forbid, no one wants these weeds to get mature enough to reseed.

Gardeners are such optimists since we are constantly planning for the next season in the flower beds. My focus now is to seed some easy to grow flowers for the late spring and summer. Zinnias are a great example for this task. I like Pacific giants seed which comes in a mix or specific colors. If you have not saved the seed from last year's crop, I suggest you buy the seed from a center which sells seed rather than the individual prepackaged seed packs. They take about one month to bloom and the plants will bloom at least 6 weeks or more if watered and fertilized. Cosmos is another good flower

to start from seed this month. Just mark off the area so you do not make the same mistake I made with my poppies. Do not mulch over the seed since they will not germinate well.

### PLANT OF THE MONTH--ALLAMANDA

Actually a tropical vine or shrub which grows to about 3 feet, and will thrive in sun or shade. Of course it will produce more bloom heads in the full sun.



Allamanda is the variety that is easy to find and also easy to grow. As an accent plant, they do very well in pots and one can mix them with trailing purple or pink verbena for a stunning effect. Bloom time is summer until fall.

**GOOD GARDENING.**

*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

*Philippians 4:8*

### John Sophocleus

from page 14

The more lawmakers we can get into the Legislature who respect and defend our civil rights to open press, firearms, not quartering people in our homes w/o permission, privacy and esp. our civil right to property, etc.; the more likely we'll see recovery and less discrimination, poverty and despair for ALL to move our State forward out of the mess we've 'progressed' into.

Finally, I must disclose Mrs. Grant didn't ask nor influence the text of this or ANY of my columns - she's indeed that impressive. Of course, if/when elected to 'Goat Hill,' Mrs. Grant can depend on me to write on anything she'd think I'd do well on shining some Alabama Gazette light upon. It wouldn't be the first time one of my columns addressed something NO other media outlet reported on to later be picked up by other media. I assure you the Goat Hill political machine does not want the sort of Light, Loretta Grant holds dear and promotes, brought even more brightly and shown more directly upon our legislators.

Republicans did not put a candidate in the primary to box out Mrs. Grant; it is doubtful she'll get any establishment Republican Party support in the general election. Start saving a little these next few months to support Mrs. Grant's campaign for the November general election. Think George Bailey's wife Mary (Donna Reed) going through town at the end of "It's a Wonderful Life" to get donations from the common people to keep Bailey out of trouble from the politically connected Mr. Potter (Lionel Barrymore) trying to destroy him. There is no other candidate on the ballot who can be elected to shine more righteous light on the despicable "Goat Hill" deals and quid pro quos.

I'll put my support behind Mrs. Grant with confidence that she will at least propose/try to restore and show real concern about civil rights in our great State of Alabama.

Getting Mrs. Grant to Montgomery is a daunting task.

### COLDWELL BANKER TOWNE REALTY HOLDS ANNUAL SALES AWARDS LUNCHEON

MONTGOMERY, AL, March 21, 2014 – Coldwell Banker Towne Realty in Montgomery, Alabama recently held its Annual Awards Luncheon to recognize the Top Producers for 2013. These agents demonstrate true professional, ethical and efficient client service while leading the pack in sales.

*Coldwell Banker Towne Realty congratulated Paul Duncan, who also finished among the top 10 Coldwell Banker agents in the State of Alabama. Other agents recognized were Wanda Ellis, Janice Qualls, Jane Peak, Keith Helms, Sheila Woodham and Diana Miles.*

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### PAUL DUNCAN RANKS IN THE TOP 10 IN ALABAMA IN TOTAL UNITS FOR COLDWELL BANKER® SALES ASSOCIATES / REPRESENTATIVES in 2013

MONTGOMERY, AL, March 21, 2014 – Paul Duncan of Montgomery, a sales associate with Coldwell Banker Towne Realty, was ranked in the top 10 among the sales associates throughout the state of Alabama in the Coldwell Banker® system in Total Units Closed for 2013.

Coldwell Banker Sales Associates/Representatives are independent contractors

## Soul Searching

*For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only begotten  
Son, that whosoever believeth  
in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.*

*John 3:16*

## THE MARSHALL MOMENT

**DR. RICK MARSHALL**  
Eastern Hills  
Baptist Church  
Montgomery, Alabama



## The Cross and History

*continued from page 1*

Eternity has no measurements, but we count days and years because our bodies are finite. It really was in the heart of God from the beginning and still reverberates through history today. *“That is precisely why Christ belongs to every age.”* It was just last week that many of us watched the movie *“The Son of God”* which told again the story of what happened to our Lord. Christ will always be contemporary. As a person Jesus Christ lived in our history. As God’s Son He is a present reality confronting, calling and caring for each of us. Christ became the link between eternity and time just as he is the bridge between our sinfulness and God’s complete forgiveness.

The cross is a reflection of God’s redemptive purpose for mankind. It was God’s means of providing forgiveness. Man could not earn it, so God offered it. The justice of God and the perfect nature of God demanded that a price be paid for sin if a relationship was to be restored and if man could have the hope of entering heaven. But that doesn’t answer the question of why the crucifixion took place when it did? Paul explained it this way. *“But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son.” (Gal. 4:4)* “God’s choice of timing had to do with the flow of human events.” If one looks closely at the period of human history when Jesus came, it was the perfect time for the spread of the Gospel. The power of Rome, while oppressive and corrupt, had provided a common language and the safety of travel for a large part of the known world at that time. Man did not choose when Christ came, but we believe God waited until “the human family was ready for the Christ-event.”

God sent forth His Son to show His love and willingness to forgive. Man crucified His Son. It is a historical event because Christ really was in the flesh. He really did suffer and die on a cross. It was God’s dramatic attempt to draw our attention to His love. How else could we have known there was forgiveness and hope in our condition? *“The cross on which He died was not mythical or theoretical.”* It was not just an example or story. It was as rough, as cruel, as painful and as torturous as anyone else who died that way. He endured unbearable agony for our sakes.

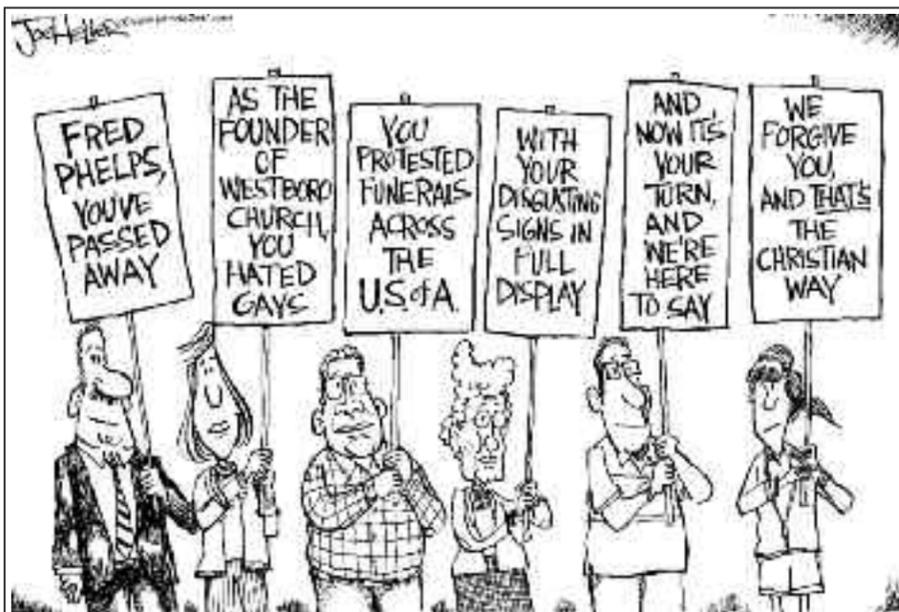
If viewed only in its historical significance and even if accepting its reality, the cross does us no good unless it becomes a present reality in our lives. Most of us are familiar with the Old Testament sacrifice system. It was intended as a precursor to the cross of Christ as well as a meaningful expression of faith in its day. But the sacrifice system had nothing to do with the future. It was about the past. The death of Christ as the sacrifice for our sins was radically different. It ended the sacrifice system because it completed its purpose. No more sacrifice was or will ever be needed. Christ’s death on the cross was about past, present and future sin. All the sins of all mankind for all eternity converged on that cross in the point in history. That’s why the cross is a present reality for all time. We celebrate the cross not only because of what happened on that hill long ago, but because of what happened in our own heart. When we recognize that His death was for our sin, it becomes present reality. He was our substitute, our sacrifice, our sin offering. Paul profoundly, yet with such beauty of words, explained it this way, *“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” (II Cor. 5:21)*

As powerfully as the past event speaks to our present, there is another fact we cannot ignore about the cross as we consider its eternal reality. We who are Christians are used to viewing the past event with an understanding of how it has spoken to our heart. Let us be reminded in this season how the cross still speaks to those who do not know that Lord and the love behind the cross. The theologian “Baillie reminds us that while some generations look to it as an event in time, God’s view of the cross is that it is happening right now. In every age God is reaching out like a loving father to embrace the wayward and estranged children. He stands ever ready to lift the load of sin from His people. Such suffering in the heart of God and such longing for reconciliation with mankind defies description.”

Is it possible for us to grasp in our minds that God still agonizes over mankind? As long as there is even one who is not brought into His love, God still suffers. We should see the cross as the “eternal atonement in the sense that it was an expression of an eternal impulse of God’s love, an eternal desire to give Himself for the good of His creatures, and also in the sense that it is eternally efficacious.” The cross, that is the suffering of God for His people, did not begin at Calvary. It is there it had its highest expression. It was God’s crowning event at the right time in history for all of history. It was the best God had to offer. That’s why the cross speaks across all cultures, languages and peoples of all time.

William Manson wrote, “He who accepts the cross does so in the Spirit of ‘Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.’ Face to face with the event on Calvary, we have to give ourselves account finally of what is involved in real forgiveness. . . . All forgiveness is a faint derivative of the supreme act of God.”

So as you come to celebrate Easter, don’t forget the cross. Although nineteen centuries have rolled by since the physical cross with the body of Christ was erected on that hill we call Golgotha, it is not an isolated event in history. It was and is God’s plan, His only plan by which we can find forgiveness and eternal hope. It is both historical and eternal. He alone applies the forgiveness to all for whom the cross becomes a contemporary reality. One cannot come close to the cross without experiencing afresh and anew the love of God. The sacrifice of Christ for our sin will always be beyond our comprehension, but not out of our ability to accept and believe. In doing so we experience the greatest love the world has ever known.



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**Eternity is Forever!**



**Dr. John Bitter**  
Editor-Senior Section

# Gazette Seniors...

## IT'S NOT WORTH WHAT?



Americans are fortunate to have perhaps the richest language in existence.

In many languages there's one way to articulate something, and that's it. The number of pseudonyms, homonyms, figures of speech, or whatever, are limited. There's one way to describe something, and that's it.

In English, especially American English, there are a host of ways to say or describe something, which gives us the luxury of being extremely specific in our word usage.

Yet we frequently assume that a word has

only one meaning, or that there is no flexibility in how a specific word may be employed.

Take, for example the word dam. When we see the word written we know what it means. But when we hear it expressed, we become confused. Because there's also a homonym, a word that sounds the same, dam^\$\*%, but has a totally different meaning. This dam^\$\*% is often used as a curse word, and its usage is eschewed in polite company.

Which brings us to the point of all this. Every so often we hear a phrase used that has a specific meaning, but the user of the phrase is mistaken in his or her assumption that the key word in the phrase has one meaning, when in fact, it has quite another.

The phrase in point is: "It's not worth a tinker's dam." This is a phrase that has a specific meaning, but its user is often unaware of this. The dam in this case refers to a wad of wet paper used by a tinker to block, or dam, a hole in a metal vessel being repaired by the tinker using molten solder.

The dam in this phrase is often confused with the swear word dam^\$\*%, so the user incorrectly substitutes the word darn to reconstruct the phrase: "It's not worth a tinker's darn!" Oops!

When one understands the meaning of the two words, the incorrectly sanitized phrase sounds a little stupid. Especially when it's done by a prominent TV personality. That's a BIG Oops.

## HOME AGAIN, HOME AGAIN

Diogenes roamed about in a futile search for an "honest man." Don Quixote chased the Impossible Dream, and your humble reporter has spent the last decade or so looking for a decent place to live out his remaining years in some degree of dignity, and at a reasonable price. As was the case for the characters cited, this has been a relatively unsuccessful effort; until now—one hopes.

By the time this missive reaches the Gazette's readers this search will have taken another step; a step forward.

Three other locations have been called home during this quest—some more than once—but Cara Vita Village, which is now under the management of Grace Management, Inc., home-based in Minneapolis, MI, gives all the appearances of having undergone a metamorphosis into just what this futile search had desired.

Tanya Allen is now in charge of the facility, assisted by Community Relations Director Jodi Hatley, with Bea Browder coordinating the enrichment of the lives of the tenants. And with the Central Alabama Aging Consortium's Elder Abuse people making Cara Vita their periodic meeting place, it's likely that we'll see much more activity taking place here in that domain.

As was stated in an earlier article on these pages a few years ago, this particular senior retirement village sits on 10 acres of attractive property at the far end of Fieldcrest Drive, and consists of three buildings on attractively landscaped land. An inviting swimming pool beckons those so inclined, and your writer may be tempted to dip a toe therein as the weather warms.

At one time Cara Vita included assisted living apartments which were closed, but are now undergoing a transformation and are expected to reopen by next year. This may be your writer's address before long.

The independent living complex houses 114 units, ranging from compact studios to deluxe two-bedroom apartments, complete with all the amenities one would desire.

To add to one's ease of living, storage spaces are provided on each floor

and housekeepers make biweekly visits to each apartment to enhance the "good life" from which "Cara Vita" derives its name.

Also at Cara Vita, Chef Clarence B. Taylor, III, marches forth each day to provide tasty meals for the residents.

Clarence brings to the retirement village more than a decade's cooking experience, having started his cooking career as the executive chef and general manager of Johnson's Diner in Orlando, FL. Here he supervised a staff of 20 who served an average of 800 meals a day.

In Montgomery he worked as an assistant general manager of Zaxby's Restaurant, and later as Food and Beverage Director at the Airport Holiday Inn here.

When Clarence came to Cara Vita he found that the kitchen had deteriorated to such a degree that the residents were downright hostile. He quickly overcame these problems and managed to give the dining room a 180 degree turnaround that has brought smiles to the faces of the residents, who now look forward to the daily dining experience.

Clarence's sparkling personality and sharp wit complement his kitchen artistry. He readily admits that many challenges still confront him.

Seniors searching for a home environment in which to live out their remaining years are often at a disadvantage in that they are constrained by physical limitations, financial constraints, and a host of other conditions inherent in aging. Consequently, any considerations that can be extended on their behalf should be considered, in spite of many arbitrary, bureaucratic hurdles that are often a part of the daily events that confront the average citizen.

It is, also, evident that Cara Vita is intent on becoming a focal point for senior concerns, especially as they relate to elder abuse and other slights that confront elders. A popular program hosted by this writer at his former place of abode: "Who's Lookin' Out for You?" will like to begin in earnest at Cara Vita, bringing to the residents, topics of special interest to elders, including legal matters, the wide range of abuses that are being inflicted our senior population, along with information on what to do about them. Senior health-related information will be dispensed in a program that has proven to be a cornucopia of health-related information. More will be seen in this regard in future editions of the Gazette.



**Kylle' McKinney**

**By Kyle' D. McKinney**  
Alabama Public Affairs Specialist  
Social Security Administration

## ARE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS TAXABLE?

If you've recently begun receiving Social Security benefits or plan to apply in the near future, you may be wondering this tax season: are Social Security benefits taxable?

The short answer is: sometimes.

Some people have to pay federal income taxes on their Social Security benefits. This usually happens only if you have other substantial income (such as wages, self-employment, interest, dividends and other taxable income that must be reported on your tax return) in addition to your Social Security benefits.

There is never a case when a person pays tax on more than 85 percent of his or her Social Security benefits, based on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules. Now, let's get down to the numbers.

If you file a federal tax return as an individual and your income is between \$25,000 and \$34,000, you may have to pay income tax on up to 50 percent of your benefits. If your income is more than \$34,000, then up to 85 percent of your benefits may be taxable.

If you are married and you file a joint return, and you and your spouse have a

combined income that is between \$32,000 and \$44,000, you may have to pay income tax on up to 50 percent of your benefits. If your combined income is more than \$44,000, then up to 85 percent of your benefits may be taxable.

Note that your "income" for the purpose of determining whether you must pay taxes on some of your Social Security benefits includes your adjusted gross income, your nontaxable interest, and one half of your Social Security benefits.

In January, you should have received a Social Security Benefit Statement showing the amount of benefits you received last year. You can use this statement, or SSA-1099, when completing your federal income tax return to find out whether some of your benefits are subject to federal income tax. If you didn't receive yours, you can request one at [www.socialsecurity.gov/1099](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/1099).

**So, are your Social Security benefits taxable? Maybe.**

To learn more, read page 14 of our booklet, Retirement Benefits, available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs) or visit [www.irs.gov/](http://www.irs.gov/) to obtain more detailed information on the subject.

Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, can be reached in Montgomery by e-mail at [kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov](mailto:kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov).

Patricia Killough



HOME TOWN COMMUNITY NEWS

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to alabamagazette@yahoo.com.

The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to include your submissions if space permits.

April Birthdays



- List of 30 birthdays for April 2014, including names like Magan Gramling, Kim Golson, and Luke Adams.

Happy Anniversary

- List of 30 anniversary couples and their respective anniversary dates, such as Warren & Doris Miller (52nd) and Jason & Kaycee Wiggins.

Sympathy to the families of...

- List of names and dates of people who have passed away, including Keranen, Linda Deese (71) and Archibald, Edna Ruth Beall (93).

Advertisement for a Part Time Worship Leader / Choir Director position at Fairview United Methodist Church, including contact information and requirements.

Advertisement for VIVIX, slow aging at the Cellular Level, featuring Shaklee products and contact information for Alice Cole.



# Today's Woman

*The Value of a Woman...* Be very careful if you make a woman cry – because God counts her tears.



## First Choice Women's Medical Center



### Pregnant?

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Maybe not...

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Facing an unexpected pregnancy can be an emotional and life-changing event. You may be shocked and confused, unsure about your future, and feeling very alone. And you're probably very interested in exploring your options. But before you make any decisions...

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[firstchoicewme.com](http://firstchoicewme.com)



Trisston Wright Burrows  
Ms. Wheelchair  
America/Alabama 2005

### Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows  
[www.trisstonwrightburrows.com](http://www.trisstonwrightburrows.com)

## “EASTER BRINGS HOPE”

Easter is not about brightly colored eggs, wearing pastels, or enjoying a big meal. Although, Easter festivities do include these. Easter is about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For some, Easter will be a great day, spent surrounded by family and friends. But for others, it will be a sad day, because Easter is a reminder of a loved one who has died and is now desperately missed. Death seems so cruel, so harsh, and so final. That is what the disciples were feeling when they saw their

Lord, whom they had left everything to follow, hanging on the cross. They were devastated. Death had crushed them. But if they would have gone back in their memories, they would have recalled an important event and statement Jesus had made.

They would have remembered Jesus standing at the tomb of his close friend Lazarus. They would have remembered that Jesus did something completely unexpected: He wept. Jesus wept because He knew that death was not part of God's original plan. Humanity was not meant to grow old, to suffer with disease, or to die. But because of the sin of Adam and Eve, sin entered the human race, and death followed with it. And death spread to all of us. Jesus wept, because it broke His heart.

But standing there at Lazarus' tomb, Jesus also delivered these hope-filled words: *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live"* (John 11:25). Death is not the end. And the resurrection of Jesus Christ proves it.

*“He is not here; for he has risen...” Matthew 28:6*

If you have put your faith in Christ, then Easter means that you will live forever in the presence of God. And that, my friends, brings hope to us all.

*Many Blessings!*

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### Recipe for: **Hamburger Steak with Onions & Gravy**

1 pound ground beef	1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1 egg	1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1/4 cup bread crumbs	1 cup thinly sliced onion
1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper	2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt	1 cup beef broth
1/2 teaspoon onion powder	1 tablespoon cooking sherry
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder	1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt

- In a large bowl, mix together the ground beef, egg, bread crumbs, pepper, salt, onion powder, garlic powder, and Worcestershire sauce. Form into 8 balls, and flatten into patties.
- Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Fry the patties and onion in the oil until patties are nicely browned, about 4 minutes per side. Remove the beef patties to a plate, and keep warm.
- Sprinkle flour over the onions and drippings in the skillet. Stir in flour with a fork, scraping bits of beef off of the bottom as you stir. Gradually mix in the beef broth and sherry. Season with seasoned salt. Simmer and stir over medium-low heat for about 5 minutes, until the gravy thickens. Turn heat to low, return patties to the gravy, cover, and simmer for another 15 minutes.

Allrecipes.com

### Recipe for: **Hash Brown Casserole II**

1 (2 pound) package frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed	1/2 cup chopped onions
1/2 cup melted butter	2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of chicken soup	1 teaspoon salt
1 (8 ounce) container sour cream	1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
	2 cups crushed cornflakes cereal
	1/4 cup melted butter

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
- In a large bowl, combine hash browns, 1/2 cup melted butter, cream of chicken soup, sour cream, chopped onion, Cheddar cheese, salt and pepper. Place mixture in a 3 quart casserole dish.
- In a medium saucepan over medium heat, saute cornflakes in 1/4 cup melted butter, and sprinkle the mixture over the top of the casserole.
- Bake covered in preheated oven for 40 minutes.

Allrecipes.com

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